



## **Finding Ben's Father**

Researching a Gillard Family of Bath, England

by Bob Johnson (email [bobj\(at\)kirk.ca](mailto:bobj(at)kirk.ca))

last updated 2022-09-29.



# Publication Data

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For my "aunt"

**Olive Johnson Zeggil**

*who wanted to know who Ben's father was*



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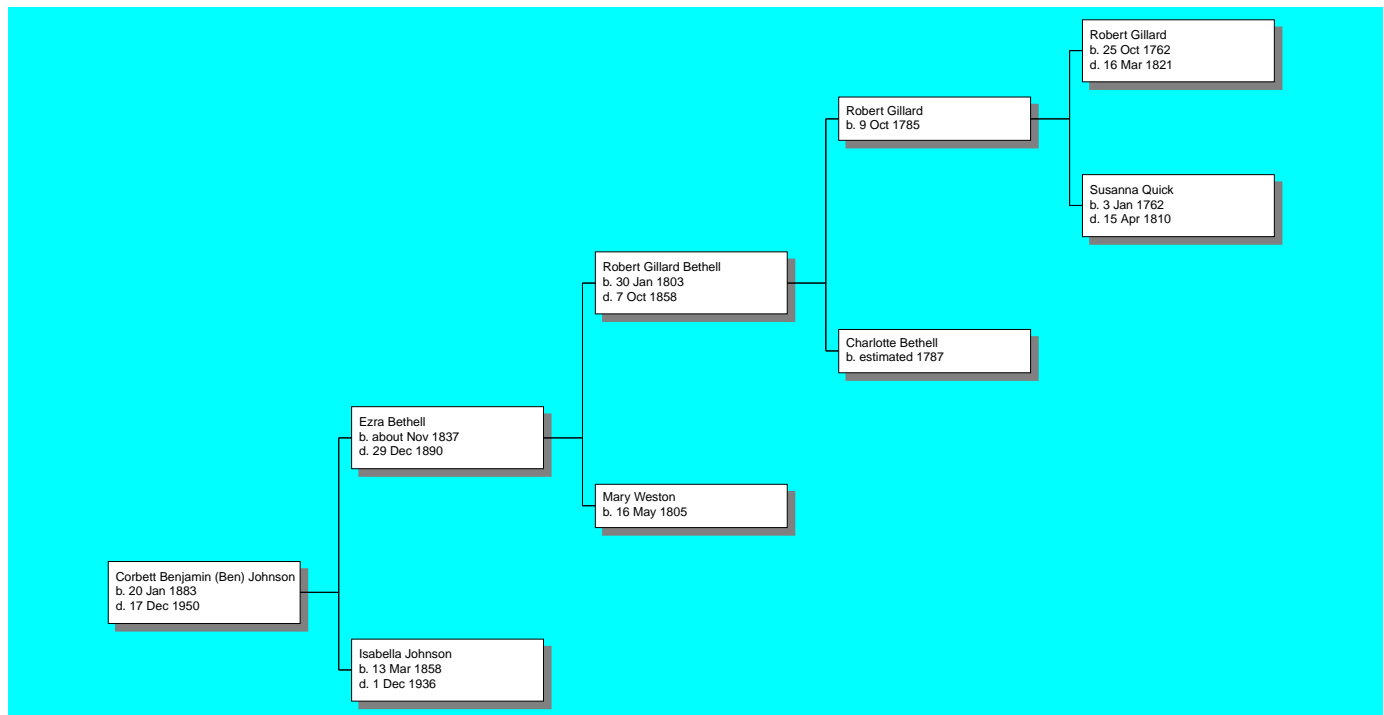
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## Overview



*Family Tree 1. Most Probable Ancestors of Ben Johnson*

The purpose of this research is to find the father of Corbett Benjamin Johnson (Ben). Ben is the father of Olive Zeggil nee Johnson and grandfather of George Johnson who both contributed DNA to further the project. While the project has not conclusively proved the exact father of Ben, it has convincingly determined Ben's most probable ancestral line along with a couple of alternatives that are less likely.

Ben's mother was known to be Isabella Johnson, but Ben's father was unknown and there was a strong presumption that he was illegitimate. Isabella came from a fairly well documented family living near Newmarket, Ontario about 30 miles north of Toronto.

Y-DNA testing evidence from George strongly suggested that the family surname of Ben's father was Gillard. Then atDNA evidence from both Olive and George produced a large number of matches to descendants of Robert Gillard and Susanna Quick in Bath, England. The number of Gillard matches was large enough to confirm that Ben was descended from that Bath family.

In addition to the Gillard matches there was another group of atDNA matches to the family of Richard Weston and Ann Wookey in Somerset. The Weston-Wookey matches were considerably stronger than the Gillard matches and indicated another strong (maternal) line in the ancestry of Ben's father.

Although the Gillard line was confirmed by a large number of online family trees, there were important differences in those trees, serious errors in some, and none that had complete lines



of descent for the whole family. To remedy this, significant work was done to trace the Gillard family from Bath. All children and grandchildren of the Bath couple that could be found were traced with quite convincing documentary evidence.

Unfortunately, the documentary evidence did not seem to provide any clear proof of a family descendant that might have become Ben's father. Then by a stroke of luck, an additional illegitimate descendant of the Gillard family was found in the person of Robert Gillard Bethell, an illegitimate child with his mother's surname. The father of Robert is one of the areas of slight uncertainty. The father could be Robert Gillard, the patriarch of the Bath family, but most likely he is the oldest son (also Robert) of that patriarch.

Robert Bethell eventually married Mary Weston, daughter of the progenitors of the Weston-Wookey line that featured in the atDNA matches. This marriage unites the two major lines found in the atDNA research. Hence Ben is undoubtedly a descendant of this marriage. Although Robert's surname is not Gillard, he is clearly a direct patrilineal descendant of the Gillard family as required by the Y-DNA testing.

Robert himself could not be the father of Ben because he died long before Ben was born. He had only four known sons and surprisingly, no known grandsons. Of the four sons, three are discarded as impossible or unlikely. It is possible that Robert or any of his sons produced an illegitimate son who would also be a candidate but I consider this too quite unlikely.

This leads to Robert's son Ezra Bethell who was unmarried and left no known sons. Ezra ran a tobacco shop in Barrie, Ontario for several years before Ben's birth and for about seven years afterwards. Barrie was relatively close and accessible to Ben's mother and a place that might be attractive to her if she were looking for a job. Ezra is clearly the most probable candidate for the father and he is the one shown in [Family Tree 1](#). Thus was formed another illegitimate liason.

Hopefully in future the results of this study will be confirmed by atDNA analysis of some of the direct descendants of Robert Bethell. Such confirmation probably cannot be done with Y-DNA because, apart from George Johnson, there are no known living direct patrilineal descendants of Robert Bethell.

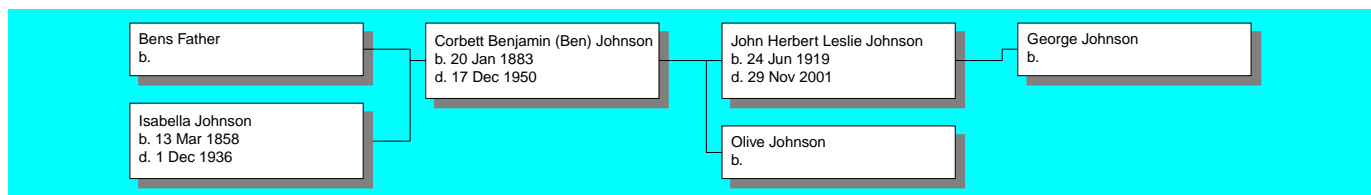


### **Beware of Surprises!**

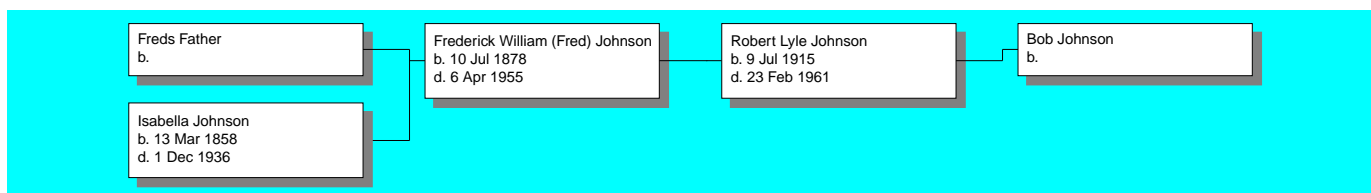
The subject of this research concerns the struggles of various members of this family to make a living in the society that was well described in the novels of Charles Dickens. Some of the people would be heroes to Dickens, but some would undoubtedly be villains. Many children died young and mothers died in childbirth. People died of diseases that are easily cured today. Some of the people ended their lives in a workhouse. Some ended up in prison or were even transported to Australia. Two were sentenced to hang, but fortunately both sentences were commuted to life in prison. If this is your family and you are not prepared for such things, you may want to reconsider reading it.



## Introduction



*Family Tree 2. Starting Point: Descendants of Ben Johnson's Father*



*Family Tree 3. Starting Point: Descendants of Fred Johnson's Father*

I have been working for some time trying to track down the Gillard family of my "aunt" Olive (Johnson) Zeggil. Olive is actually my first cousin once removed, but our family always calls her aunt. Olive's father was Ben Johnson, brother of my grandfather Fred Johnson.

When I first started doing genealogy on my Johnson family, I was only able to trace them back to Newmarket, Ontario in about 1800. I soon found that there were no records about Ben and Fred's father and the existing records seemed to indicate they were both illegitimate. So I tried a Y chromosome DNA (Y-DNA) test to see if I could find out anything. Y-DNA is the type carried by males only and it is passed from father to son mostly unchanged from generation to generation.

My own Y-DNA didn't help much because it is a very common type shared by many men of Irish and Scots descent and I had thousands of matches with no really close matches and no indication of a specific surname. I then asked Olive's nephew, George Johnson (my second cousin), to take a Y-DNA test. George's test showed that Ben and Fred were only stepbrothers having different fathers. But tellingly, George's test also showed half a dozen reasonably close matches to men with the surname Gillard/Gaylord. [Family Tree 2](#) shows some descendants of Ben's father including Olive and George who contributed DNA to this project. Similarly, [Family Tree 3](#) shows my side of the family. Note that Isabella Johnson, the mother of Fred and Ben, appears in both trees.

As far as I know, the surname in George's Y-DNA matches was originally Gaylord in England. The name Gaylord travelled with early colonists to Massachusetts and it remains with that spelling for many Americans descended from the original settlers. But in England it eventually evolved into Gillard and that is how it is spelled in most English records I have consulted.

Since I now had a surname, I decided to research the Gillard family of Ben's father if I could. The result of that research is the following work. The photo on the title page shows Corbett



Benjamin Johnson (Ben) the work's inspiration.<sup>1</sup> I present this research to show the results of traditional genealogy work combined with the newer technology of genealogical DNA research. I have to say this is the first such project I have undertaken and it has been a massive learning project for me.

Since I still had nothing to go on other than the Gillard surname, I decided to look at the other type of DNA. Autosomal DNA (atDNA) is the type inherited from both parents, about half from the father and half from the mother. This means that the test can be taken by men or women and that it shows matches from all ancestral lines not just the direct male line. The downside however is that the amount of atDNA from a specific ancestor is reduced by 50% in each generation. So, I started out with Olive's atDNA and eventually asked George and he also agreed to an atDNA test.

I found Olive's DNA very easy to work with. Olive's mother was born in Canada, but both her maternal grandparents were of Irish Palatine descent. The Palatines were a small closely-knit group that intermarried amongst themselves. This community left a definite imprint on Olive's DNA that was quite easy to pick out in most cases. I was able to go through her DNA matches and classify a large number of them fairly quickly. I then used this group to check other matches for Palatinate ancestry by seeing if they matched known members of the group.

Olive's paternal grandmother (i.e. Ben's mother) was Isabella Johnson, and she is also my great grandmother (i.e. Fred's mother). So any matches shared by Olive and me (and also George) are through Isabella. Putting these facts all together, I came up with a simple rule for finding matches to Ben's father. Anyone who matched Olive and George, but did not match me or the Irish Palatinate was a good candidate to be related to Ben's father. I will call this "Ben's rule" for easy reference.

I found a large number of matches that satisfied Ben's rule. A lot of them were not much help because they did not include publicly accessible family trees showing their ancestry. Some had trees, but they did not go back far enough to be of help. I extended those trees myself where I could using data from other public family trees. Working with the trees (and extended trees) of the atDNA matches satisfying the rule, I found the majority traced their ancestry back to Somerset or nearby counties in southwest England.

Once I found the origins, I tried to combine the trees together to see which matches were related to each other. As I went through this process, I found two major groupings. There was a Gillard group which I had expected because of George's Y-DNA test results giving a paternal surname of Gillard. After a lot of digging and comparison work, I was able to trace the majority in this group back to common parents of Robert Gillard (1762-1821) and his wife Susanna Quick (1762-1810). This couple raised their family in Bath, a town in Somerset famous for its ancient Roman baths. I found about 40 matches in Olive's atDNA to this couple, and a similar number for George. I say "about" because the number is slowly but continually increasing as more



people have DNA tests.

The second major grouping of matches that I found also had ancestors in the Somerset area and the matches were more numerous and stronger than the Gillard group. I worked diligently on this group until I came up with a similar set of common parents. These are Richard Weston (1769-1853) and Ann Wookey (1775-1855). I was able to find almost 200 matches to Olive in this group, and another 150 to George. These numbers make it clear that this is an important branch in the line of Ben's father. I assumed that it was probably the line of Ben's maternal grandmother. The difference in the number and strength of the matches between the two lines was surprising. I assumed that the difference was caused by more prolific families and possibly more intermarriage in the Weston-Wookey family. Intermarriage has the effect of strengthening DNA in the descendants of such a marriage.

I looked for a long time for a marriage between the Gillard-Quick line and the Weston-Wookey line but it eluded me. Eventually I decided I would go ahead and publish my results for the Gillard line and just keep my eyes open for the other line while I completed my research and publication. I completed the first draft of the work without finding the elusive connection to the Weston line, and as a consequence without finding Ben's father. However as I was reviewing the first draft, serendipity struck and I was able to find the connection between the lines, although it was not what I expected. The discovery and results are presented in [Section 13](#).

I am presenting the Gillard information I found in chronological order. First I discuss the parents Robert Gillard and Susanna Quick. That is followed by a discussion of each of their children (with separate sections for each grandchild). I include a family tree for reference at the beginning of each discussion. There are many repeated first names within the various branches so I am hoping the family tree will lessen confusion. There is also an appendix tracing the origins of the family before they came to Bath.

If you would like to skip over portions of this work and go directly to the discussion of a particular part of this family, you can do so by looking through the table of contents for the parents of the family group you want and then going directly to the page listed. If you are reading this document on a computer, there should be an automatic link from the contents to the page you need. If you are specifically looking for the grandparents of Ben Johnson, then go to [Section 13](#). If you would prefer to find people on a graphical tree, go to the main chart at [Family Tree 4](#), then use the table of contents.

I use footnotes to cite the source of each record that I used. The footnotes all include a URL address of the website containing the record. Clicking on that URL in the PDF version will take you directly to the record cited with the following provisos:

- The references to familysearch.org website require a free login to access records. For copyright reasons, some records on that site are only available at a Family History Center.



- The references to ancestry.ca website require a login that has access to the cited records.
- The GRO website requires a free login.
- Neither the GRO nor BathBMD sites have direct URLs for records, so data from the footnote must be entered into a search page.

I have a comment on the distances between locations that I have given. I got the distances from Google maps, but I asked for the walking distance rather than the driving distance. In my opinion, the walking distance more closely approximates the distance travelled in the period I am discussing. In general driving distances are longer than walking, sometimes considerably longer. And, in keeping with the times, distances are all in miles (1 mile is about 1.6 kilometers).

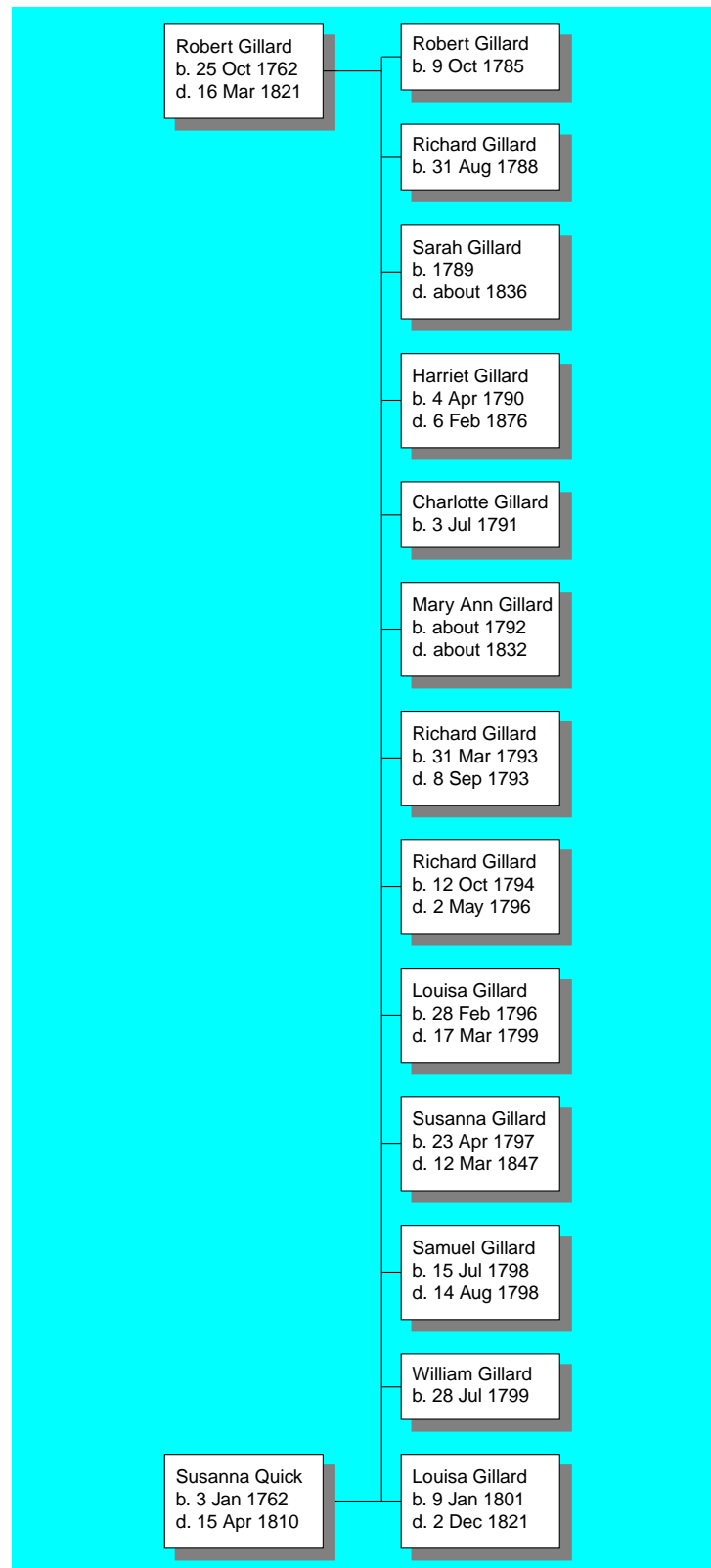
### **Acknowledgments**

I would like to acknowledge the work of several people who helped me create this book. Olive Zeggil of Markham, Ontario and her nephew George Johnson took the DNA tests that provided the basis for all my DNA research. Several ancestry DNA users gave me viewer access to the results of DNA tests that they manage which helped with my research. Those users are Carolyn Haines of Holt, Michigan, Wendy Hahl of St. Catherines, Ontario and Nicola Cooper of South Devon, England. Nicola also read and commented on a draft.

I have to especially thank my friend Brian Latham of Yellowknife who encouraged me to write about my genealogy work in the first place. He also helped me by discussing my research problems, proofreading my many drafts and giving suggestions for corrections and improvements.



# 1. The Gillards of Bath



Family Tree 4. Family of Robert Gillard and Susanna Quick



Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Robert Gillard	1762	Sampford Peverell, Devon	1821	Bath, Somerset
Susanna Quick	1762	Halberton, Devon	probably 1810	Bath, Somerset

I first started investigating Robert after I found that Ben's daughter and nephew had a number of DNA matches with family trees going back to a Robert Gillard and his wife Susanna (surname unknown). Because of the lack of surnames for married women in parish records in England, it is very common to run across family trees where the wife's surname is unknown. At the time I was not trying to do traditional genealogy, but only trying to build a common tree of matches. So, I just left the tree as it was given to me by the matches.

But, as my research went on I eventually had about 80 matches descended from Robert and Susanna. There was a problem however: not all trees found on the various sites online matched each other and I could see that some of the trees had problems. This was made clear by the FamilySearch tree which is on the genealogy website operated by the LDS (Mormon) church.<sup>2</sup> The tree lists Susanna as born in about 1740 having her first child in 1761 and the last in 1798 when she was 58. I found that age to be highly unlikely, so I decided to do my own research to see if I could come up with a single tree for this family with appropriate genealogy sources.

First of all, I had to establish the location of the family. This was fairly easy because the FamilySearch tree listed a marriage record for Robert and Susanna's daughter Sarah who is clearly a descendant as shown by all the matches who have her in their direct ancestral line. The marriage record is on the Ancestry website and shows Sarah's marriage to John Sandell occurred on 4 July, 1803 at the parish church of Bath St. James.<sup>3</sup> See [Section 3](#) for further details on that family.

Having found where Sarah's marriage occurred, I then searched for nearby Somerset baptisms where the parents are listed as Robert and Susanna. A simple search on Ancestry in the "All Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1531-1812" online database turned up eight baptisms in the whole database. The baptisms occurred in the years 1788 to 1801. Four of the baptisms in the period 1797 to 1801 were at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>4 5 6 7</sup> There were also another four earlier baptisms in the period 1788 to 1796 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin which is also in Bath less than a mile from St. James.<sup>8 9 10 11</sup> The names on these baptisms were not unique. For example, Richard Gillard is the name of the child baptized on three different occasions. However, as we shall see later, the names are consistent with a single family because there are intervening burials. It seems that if a child died very young, the parents gave a later child the same name. I should mention that the list is incomplete. There are several other children for whom I can find no baptism. I will cover all these children later. In total, I have come up with over a dozen children as shown on the tree in [Family Tree 4](#).



The baptisms seem to imply that the parents first lived in St. Swithin parish and then moved to St. James Parish. Both churches are in Bath, less than a mile apart. So the next thing to do was to find the marriage of Robert and Susanna.

I found a marriage on the Ancestry online database "Somerset, England, Marriage Registers, Bonds and Allegations, 1754-1914" between Robert Gillard and Susanna Quick on December 14, 1783 in the church of Walcot St. Swithin.<sup>12</sup>

For a long time, I could not find the baptism records for Robert and Susanna themselves, but that changed when I found a record giving the birthplace of their son Robert as Tiverton. I discuss the details of that record in [Section 2](#). After finding that clue, I did a fair amount of research on Gillards in the area of Tiverton which is a town in the county of Devon and is about 66 miles from Bath. I will defer the details of my research on the Tiverton ancestors to [Appendix A](#). In the following sections, I will just assume the conclusions of that appendix.

I found the baptism of Robert Gillard the father on October 25, 1762 at the Sampford Peverell parish church in Devonshire about 5 miles from Tiverton.<sup>13</sup> Robert's parents were Richard Gillard and Rebecca Garland. I found the baptism of Susanna Quick January 3, 1762 in the parish church of Halberton in Devonshire less than 4 miles from Tiverton.<sup>14</sup> Susanna's parents were listed as Samuel Quick and Joan (maiden name unspecified).

I am pretty sure that I have found the burial record for Robert. There was a burial on March 16, 1821 for a Robert Gillard at the church of Bathwick St. Mary.<sup>15</sup> Robert's age at death was 60 years which exactly matches his baptism record. The church where he was buried is within a mile of both St. Swithin and St. James parishes where Robert and Susanna's children were baptised. Later that year, a Louisa Gillard was buried at the same church on December 2, 1821.<sup>16</sup> Louisa's age is given as 21 which is very close to the age of Robert and Susanna's daughter who was baptised on January 9, 1801.<sup>7</sup> From these burials, I conclude that the persons buried are Robert Gillard and his daughter Louisa.

I have found another burial that is probably Robert's wife Susanna Quick, but I cannot say for certain. The burial is for a Susannah Gillard who was buried on April 15, 1810.<sup>17</sup> No age was given, and there is nothing else to identify her. There are on the same page of the burial register a number of burials where the person's name is followed by "a cd" which I interpret as an abbreviation for "a child". Since Susannah does not have that annotation, I take it to mean she was an adult. Her burial is listed in the register for Bath St. Michael which is less than half a mile from St. James where Robert and Susanna's later children were baptised. Although I am not certain, I will use this burial date for Susanna Quick with the adjective "probably".

Robert and Susanna seem to have spent their whole married lives in the city of Bath, so they were probably not farming for a living. For a long time, I assumed that Robert was a tradesman. However, I recently found a Bath directory listing for 1809 showing a Robert Gillard



as a Pawnbroker living at 22 Peter Street, and a Daniel Gillard, also a pawnbroker living at 24 Peter street.<sup>18</sup> Earlier parish records do not list the address of families, but later burial documents show that both Robert Gillard (husband of Susanna Quick) and his brother Daniel lived on Peter Street when they died in 1821 and 1818 respectively.<sup>19 20</sup> So, this makes it pretty clear that our Robert made his living as a pawnbroker probably in partnership with his brother Daniel. This however, does not preclude the possibility of both or either of them having started out as a tradesman in order to make enough to go into the pawnbroking business.

At the time, pawnbroking had a very bad (not to say criminal) reputation. Charles Dickens wrote a story of a visit to a pawnbroker's shop in 1835 which is very descriptive.<sup>21</sup> His story begins:

Of the numerous receptacles for misery and distress with which the streets of London unhappily abound, there are, perhaps, none which present such striking scenes as the pawnbrokers' shops.

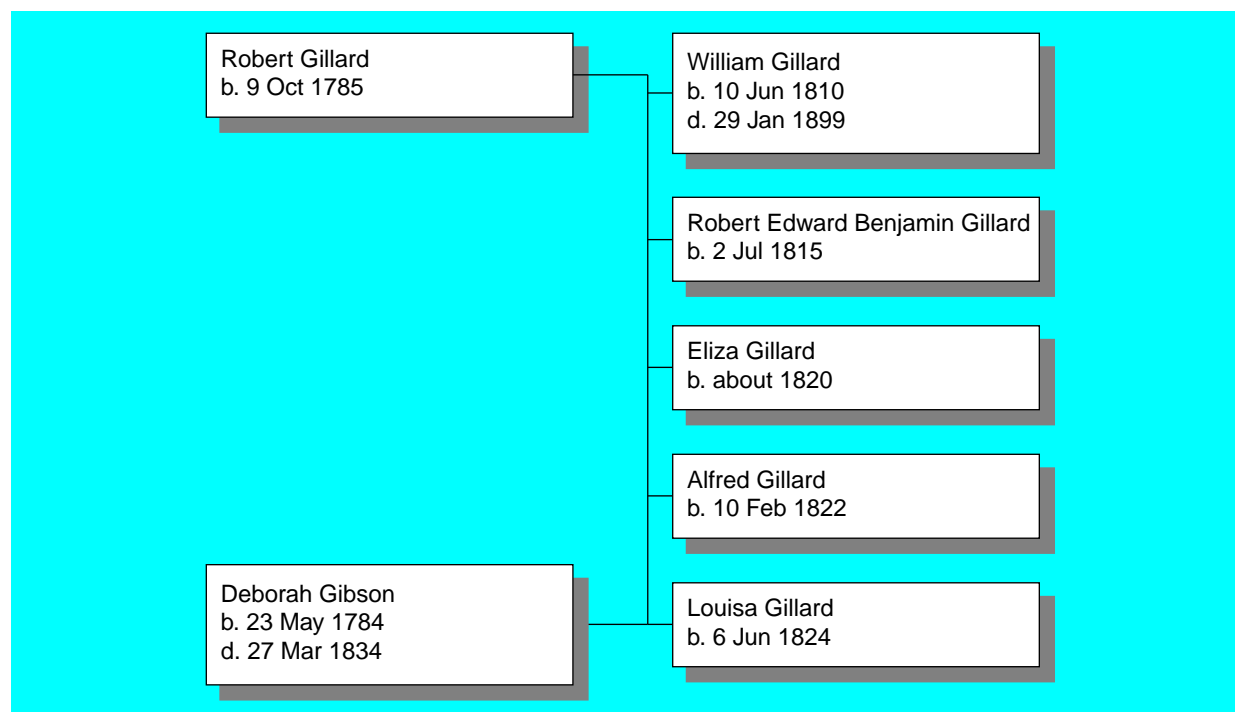
Dickens' story gives a good idea of the business life of the Gillard brothers, and I recommend it to all my readers.

A discussion of Robert Gillard's parents and siblings is given in more detail in [Appendix A](#).

That concludes what I know about Robert and Susanna themselves. I will now continue on to their known children, in birth order. I make an exception in the case where a child dies young and a later child is given the same name. In the case of multiple births with the same name, all births for a single name will be grouped together for convenience. The group will be placed according to the latest birth date.



## 2. Robert Gillard and Deborah Gibson



Family Tree 5. Family of Robert Gillard and Deborah Gibson

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Robert Gillard	1785	Tiverton, Devonshire	estimated 1833- 1841	Somerset
Deborah Gibson	1784	Bristol	1834	Bath, Somerset

I found a baptism for Robert Gillard with parents Robert and Susanna that was celebrated on October 9, 1785 at the church of Tiverton St. Peter.<sup>22</sup> Although they were probably living in Bath at the time, I think that Susanna probably wanted to return to Tiverton to have her mother's support during the birth of her first child.

The first record I have found of Robert shows him entering an apprenticeship under master cordwainer George Ware in Bath St. James parish. The record shows that George paid apprenticeship duties on April 11, 1799.<sup>23</sup> Cordwainer was an archaic term for a shoemaker. A cordwainer (or shoemaker) was a distinct (higher class) trade from cobbler in that cordwainers made shoes from new leather while cobblers mended old shoes.<sup>24</sup> In order to be a cordwainer, Robert's father would have had to sign an indenture for him. According to a FamilySearch wiki article "A seven-year term was usual and ... apprenticeship usually started at the age of fourteen."<sup>25</sup> The same source also says "He or she was subject to the absolute authority of the master and by the terms of their "indenture" could not gamble, or go to the theatre or a public house, and certainly could not marry". Assuming the standard terms, Robert would have been born about 1785 (agreeing with the baptism date) and would complete his apprenticeship in



about 1806.

The next record is the marriage of Robert Gillard to Deborah Gibson on April 16, 1806 at Bristol St. James.<sup>26</sup> Both Robert and Deborah are listed as being of the parish of Bristol St. James. Robert signs his name in a reasonable hand, so he has had some education. Deborah makes her mark. This marriage seems to support the proposition that Robert married immediately after completing his apprenticeship and supports the conclusion that the Tiverton baptism in 1785 mentioned above is for the same Robert Gillard.

I have found a baptism record for a Deborah Gibson who is almost certainly Robert's wife.<sup>27</sup> She was baptised on May 23, 1784 in Bristol St. James, the same church as the marriage. According to a FamilySearch wiki article "It should be noted that during this period [1754-1837], couples generally married in the bride's parish, though this was not an officially established rule."<sup>28</sup> So, it is very likely that this baptism is for Robert's bride. The baptism gives her parents as William and Rebecca Gibson.

In following years, Robert and Deborah had several children baptised in Bristol. In most cases, the trade of their father is listed as either shoemaker or cordwainer.<sup>29 30 31 32</sup> These baptisms make it clear that the Robert Gillard who married Deborah in 1806 is the same Robert who apprenticed in Bath St. James until 1806. It seems he adopted the usual practice of marrying immediately after his apprenticeship was completed.

The only slight discrepancy is that he is listed as being of the parish of Bristol St. James in the marriage, but Bath St. James in the apprenticeship record. To further clarify this, we can look at the first baptism record we have for one of their children, William Gillard in 1810.<sup>33</sup> William was baptised in the church of Bath St. James. All their children other than William that we have a record of were baptised in Bristol as stated above. From this I conclude that Robert and Deborah were married in Deborah's parish of Bristol St. James, but they lived in Robert's home of Bath to begin their family. Then sometime before 1815, they moved to Bristol where the rest of their children were born.

The next record I have for the family was created for Deborah when she was arrested for stealing stockings in 1827.<sup>34</sup> The record is from the Ilchester Gaol where she was held pending trial. She was originally held at the prison at Shepton Mallet, then transferred to Ilchester on April 5, 1827 and put on trial the same day. It was apparently a joint trial with a Mary Floyd who was charged with the same offence. The verdict was "Ig" short for Latin "Ignoramus" meaning "insufficient evidence" and the case was dismissed. Deborah was described as 42 years old, 5 feet 4 inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes and grey hair. Her age agrees with the baptism record mentioned and she was said to be born at Bedminster. Bedminster is a district in Bristol less than two miles from the church where the baptism occurred. Deborah is listed as a laundress. The other woman charged with Deborah, Mary Floyd, was only 27, born at Bristol, and single. She may possibly be a relative, but I cannot identify her as such. Since Mary was



born in Bristol, Deborah and her family may still be at Bristol in 1827 although I can't be sure.

Five years later in 1832, I find the record of a trial of Robert Giller and his oldest son William. The record is from their entry to Ilchester Gaol on April 16, 1832 where they were held during their trial.<sup>35</sup> Although the surname is spelled Giller, I know it is the right Robert, because he is listed as a shoemaker aged 46 which is very close to the other info I have about him. Robert and his son were accused of "Unlawfully uttering to Jane Martha Anthony a Counterfeit half crown". They were both found guilty and sentenced to 6 months in prison. Robert was sent to Wilton Gaol and his son to Shepton Mallet Gaol. I also have the record of his entry to the Wilton Gaol after the trial, on the same day, April 16, 1832.<sup>36</sup> This record contains the tidbit that Robert went to school in Bath and can read and write.

A couple of months after Robert got out of prison, he is in trouble again. This time, he is admitted to Ilchester Gaol on December 28, 1832.<sup>37</sup> On this record, they had found out the correct spelling of his name, so they recorded it as "Robert Gillard alias Giller" so they would be able to match up his previous records. In fact there is a note in the remarks column "Before Convicted of a misdemeanour imprisoned 6 months Wilton". He was held for trial until March 29, 1833 when he finally faced the judge. This time, he was charged with "Having in his possession a certain Mould on which was impressed the figure or resemblance of the Current Silver Coin of the realm". He was found guilty, and the judge sentenced him to two years hard labour.

There is another document drawn up when he entered Ilchester Gaol, a detailed description of Robert.<sup>38</sup> I find it interesting because to my knowledge no photographs of him exist. He is described as follows: 47 years old, height 5 foot 8 inches, build stout, dark complexion, black hair, hazel eyes with a scar on his forehead between his eyes. It goes on to say he was born in Tiverton, was by trade a shoemaker, his last place of abode was Bath and he was married with 5 children. The last abode of Bath means that the family had moved back from Bristol to Bath where Robert grew up by this time. His birth place of Tiverton was surprising at first because all evidence had seemed to suggest a birthplace of Bath. Nevertheless, I eventually followed up and found out that Tiverton was indeed correct. The story of tracking down the Tiverton connection is detailed in [Appendix A](#) as previously noted.

After Robert was arrested, the parish overseers of the poor apparently became worried that Robert's family would need poor relief while Robert was in prison. So, they issued an order for removal of the family to Bristol on January 14, 1833.<sup>39</sup> The removal order states in part:

That Robert Gillard his wife Deborah and their three Children viz Eliza aged about 10 years - Alfred aged 8 years and Louisa aged 6 years lately came to inhabit in the said Parish of Saint James in the City of Bath, contrary to Law, not having any ways gained a legal settlement there, nor produced any certificate owning them to be settled elsewhere: and that said Robert Gillard his wife Deborah and their three Children are actually become



chargeable to the said Parish of Saint James ... THESE are therefore in his Majesty's Name, to require, order, and command you, the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Saint James in the said City of Bath, or some of you, to remove and convey the said Deborah Gillard (the said Robert Gillard has been committed for trial) and their three Children from and out of your Parish of Saint James to the said Parish of Saint Augustine and them to deliver to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor there

Although the order was given, subsequent events will show it was never carried out. It was probably fought by the overseers of the poor in Bristol St. Augustine. I don't know the exact time when Robert and the family came back to Bath and the other circumstances, so I can't judge the validity of the removal, but it seems a simple attempt by the Bath overseers to get rid of some paupers they were responsible to support.

I have no record of the death of Robert and I cannot find him in the earliest census made in 1841. He may have died in prison before this because hard labour was no walk in the park in those days. If he did die in prison while his wife was a pauper, he would no doubt have been buried in a churchyard near the jail, not in Bath. I have been unable to find his burial anywhere in Somerset.

I have a burial record for a Deborah Gillard in Bath who is probably this Robert's wife.<sup>40</sup> She was 49 at the time of her burial on March 27, 1834 agreeing exactly with the baptism record. She is also very close to the calculated age for her husband Robert. According to a heading on the burial register page, she was buried in the "Poor House Ground ... St. James, Bath". Her husband was at this time either in prison or deceased. Deborah probably avoided being sent back to Bristol, but ended up in the Bath poorhouse because she could not support herself without him. In those days of no pension and no dole, anyone could end up in a Dickensian workhouse. Deborah's parish was listed as St. James (in Bath, not Bristol) and (since it presumably had been contested in court) that must have been her legal residence. It also agrees with the prison record stating that Robert's abode before he was arrested was Bath.

The following paragraphs discuss all known children of Robert Gillard and Deborah Gibson. The identification is based mainly on baptisms showing the father as Robert and the mother as Deborah with the maiden name unspecified. While it is possible that there was more than one couple named Robert and Deborah Gillard in the Bath area at the time, it seems to me that all the evidence is consistent with the single couple I have identified.



## 2.1. William Gillard and Catherine Mary Smith

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
William Gillard	1810	Bath, Somerset	1899	Goulburn, NSW
Catherine Mary Smith	1828	Leeds, Yorkshire	1916	Sydney, NSW

As mentioned above, the first known child of Robert Gillard and Deborah Gibson was William Gillard who was baptised June 10, 1810 at Bath St. James.<sup>33</sup>

As previously stated, William and his father Robert (under the name Giller) were both admitted to Ilchester Gaol on April 16, 1832 and both charged with passing a Counterfeit half crown.<sup>41</sup> Both were found guilty and sentenced to 6 months, but William was separated from his father and sent to Shepton Mallet Gaol to serve his sentence.

Like his father, a couple of months after his release, he is back in trouble, but unlike his father, the crime is much more serious. On December 23, 1832, just a few days before his father is arrested, William Gillard is readmitted to Ilchester Gaol.<sup>42</sup> He is listed as age 22 and a shoemaker like his father. The charge was "Breaking the dwelling house of Sophia Symonds and stealing a Time piece". The verdict is listed as "Not Guilty", but they meant to say that he was not tried. Instead he was kept in custody until the next quarter session where more serious crimes were tried.

While he was in Ilchester, a detailed description of William was made which survives.<sup>43</sup> In it he is described as 23 years old, height 5 feet 8 inches, stout build, dark complexion, oval face, dark brown hair, blue eyes and a scar at the corner of his left eye. He was born in Bath, was a shoemaker, and his last place of abode was Bath. He was single and can read and write.

The trial at the quarter session occurred on April 15, 1833. On his readmission to Ilchester after the trial,<sup>44</sup> the record says that he was found guilty and sentenced to transportation for 14 years.<sup>45</sup> At this time in England, transportation meant imprisonment in Australia. He did not stay long at Ilchester. He was 'Removed to the "Justitia" Hulk Woolwich 16th May 1833'. The following definition of a "Prison Hulk" or ship may be found on Wikipedia:<sup>46</sup>

A prison ship, often more accurately described as a prison hulk, is a current or former seagoing vessel that has been modified to become a place of substantive detention for convicts, prisoners of war or civilian internees. While many nations have deployed prison ships over time, the practice was most widespread in seventeenth and eighteenth century Britain, as the government sought to address the issues of overcrowded civilian jails on land



He was finally loaded aboard the ship Fairlie for the trip to Australia. It arrived in New South Wales (NSW) on February 15, 1834.<sup>47</sup> One of the first things they did there was to record a description of each convict. The description (called an indenture) was much more detailed than was done in England and for William there were some differences. His trial date is April 13, 1833 instead of April 15 in Ilchester. Whichever is right, the former would control his eventual release in NSW. His occupation was listed as "valet and groom" as opposed to a shoemaker which was his father's trade. I think the former term means manservant, and I suspect William was just trying to get a cushy house servant's job in the penal colony. His height was more carefully measured at 5 feet 7 and a quarter rather than 5 feet 8 inches. His complexion was dark ruddy instead of dark. His eyes are hazel instead of blue, which may attest to more careful scrutiny in NSW. The big difference was in scars. In NSW, six scars were listed including the one noted in Ilchester.

Soon after his arrival in NSW, William was assigned to work for a Lieutenant Blackburn of the 17th regiment.<sup>48</sup> This information is contained in a Convict list for arrivals in the year 1834, but the entry is undated, and the type of work is unstated. It is possible that he worked as a manservant since the stated trade on his convict indenture often affected the convict's assignment.

If the prison authorities were satisfied that William met the regulations currently in effect, he could be given a type of parole called a "ticket of leave". I found a record of him being granted one on April 3, 1841, about 8 years after his conviction.<sup>49</sup> Wikipedia has this to say about tickets of leave in Australia:<sup>50</sup>

Convicts who seemed able to support themselves were awarded a ticket of leave. Before too long, tickets began to be given as a reward for good behaviour, which permitted the holders to seek employment within a specified district, but not leave it without the permission of the government or the district's resident magistrate. Each change of employer or district was recorded on the ticket. ...

Ticket-of-leave holders were permitted to marry, or to bring their families from Britain, and to acquire property, but they were not permitted to carry firearms or board a ship.

I also found a ticket of leave for him granted on November 24, 1843 which gives him leave to work for 3 months sheep sheering for William Bradley Esquire,<sup>51</sup> who had a large sheep station near Goulburn, a town about 120 miles southeast of Sydney.<sup>52</sup>

I am going to jump ahead 56 years to William's obituary because it will help us understand some of the following records. William died on January 29, 1899, and this obituary was published in the Goulburn Herald the next day.<sup>53</sup>

MR. WILLIAM GILLARD, AETAT 88. At Pedley's gardens, Ifield, Goulburn yesterday morning



between two and three o'clock Mr. William Gillard passed away peacefully from senile decay at the age of eighty-eight years. The remains were interred in the Church of England cemetery this morning, the Rev. Canon Kingsmill officiating. Deceased was a native of Bristol, England and came to the colony between sixty and seventy years ago. Within a few years afterwards he came to Goulburn and has resided here and at Binda ever since. He established a livery stable in the stables now attached to the Palace Hotel, and afterwards kept the Horse and Jockey Hotel where the Bank of N.S.W. now stands, and then the Chequers Inn, now Nash's Family Hotel. While residing here he was well known and much respected citizen. He then went to Binda, where for many years he was a sheep-farmer. About nine months ago he took Pedley's garden, where he died as above stated. Deceased was twice married, his second wife, who survives him, being the widow of Mr. John Kelly, one of the surveyors who laid out the railway line to Goulburn. He leaves no children.

There are several reasons why I think the deceased is the same William Gillard from Bath we have been following.

1. The deceased William is 88 years old in January 1899. The Bath William was baptised in June 1810 and so would have turned 88 about June 1898.<sup>33</sup> In other words, the ages are an exact match.
2. The deceased William was stated to be from Bristol. The other William was from Bath, but his family moved to Bristol when he was quite young. Bristol is only about 12 miles from Bath. The birth places of the two are not identical, but I would call it a very close match.
3. The deceased William came to NSW between sixty and seventy years before, that is between 1828 and 1838. The Bath William came in February 1834 on the convict ship Fairlie.<sup>47</sup> In other words, the two arrivals match within the information given.
4. The deceased came to Goulburn a few years after coming to Australia. The Bath William was known to be working near Goulburn at least as early as 1843.<sup>51</sup>
5. The deceased eventually became a sheep farmer. The Bath William is known to have had some experience working for one of the most successful sheep farmers in Australia.

Because of the very close matches of birth date, birth place, Australian arrival date, and the connection to Goulburn and sheep, I am convinced the two Williams are one and the same.

Resuming the story when William was still serving his time, William was presumably granted a pardon at the end of his original sentence if he had not done anything to increase that sentence. Note that his "Ticket of Leave" allowed him to work outside the prison, but he was still a convict. A pardon was the official release paperwork that made him a free man again. Unfortunately, I have found no record of the pardon. The next record I have that appears to be him comes when he successfully applied for a license to run a tavern in the town of Goulburn in 1854.<sup>54</sup> The tavern was the one mentioned earlier in the obituary called the Horse and Jockey



and was situated on Auburn Street. The license was only good for one year. William renewed the license each year until 1858.<sup>55</sup> I have not found any licenses in this district in 1859, but in 1860, the Horse and Jockey is licensed to another person, Charles Thomas.<sup>56</sup>

According to his obituary above, William was married twice, but I have not been able to clearly identify any record of his first marriage. After his first wife died, he married Catherine Mary Kelly in 1878 in Sydney, NSW.<sup>57</sup> Catherine, whose maiden name was Smith, was baptised on April 26, 1828 at the church of Leeds St. Peter in Yorkshire, England.<sup>58</sup> She had also been married before to John O'Beirne Kelly on July 22, 1846 in the same church where she was baptised.<sup>59</sup>

As previously stated, William died in 1899. His wife Catherine aged 88 died on August 21, 1916 in Sydney.<sup>60</sup> Her obituary in the Sydney Morning Herald said of her:

KELLY-GILLARD. -On the 21st inst, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. W. Southall, 126 Flinders-street, Moore Park, Sydney. Catherine Mary Gillard, relict of the late John Kelly, Govt. Surveyor, Goulburn, beloved mother of Crosby Kelly (Lands Survey Office, Maitland) and Mrs. W. Southall (late of Goulburn), aged 88 years. At Rest.

William's life was an incredible Australian success story of a convict returning to civilian life, working very hard, and turning himself into a success, first in a livery stable, then in hotels, and finally as a landed sheep farmer.

## 2.2. Robert Edward Benjamin Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Robert E B Gillard	1815	Bristol	unknown	unknown

Robert and Deborah had a child baptised as Robert Edward Benjamin Gillard on July 2, 1815 at Bristol St. James church.<sup>29</sup> I have found no further records for Robert Edward Benjamin. It seems most likely he died young, so I searched for burial records in both Bristol and Somerset, but found nothing identifiable under any of his forenames. I also searched for marriage records in Bristol and Somerset and found nothing I could identify. Also, he does not appear in the 1841 census with any known family member.

## 2.3. Eliza Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Eliza Gillard	about 1820	Bristol	unknown	unknown



Robert and Deborah had two children baptised as Eliza and Alfred Gillard on February 10, 1822 at Bristol St. Stephen.<sup>31 30</sup> At first, I thought that Eliza and Alfred were twins, but the 1833 removal order for the family quoted above states that Eliza was two years older than Alfred.<sup>39</sup> So even though the removal order seems to underestimate the ages of all the children, I will assign a tentative birth date of about 1820 for Eliza.

I found no further records for Eliza that I can recognize. In particular, she does not appear in the 1841 census with any known family member. I expected her to be with a family member since her mother probably died in 1834,<sup>40</sup> and her father appears to have died before 1841 (as previously noted). Louisa may have died in the poorhouse herself, or she may have been sent to work or apprentice for someone in a place that makes her unrecognizable to me.

## 2.4. Alfred Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Alfred Gillard	1822	Bristol	unknown	unknown

As previously stated in the section on Eliza, Alfred Gillard was baptised on February 10, 1822 at Bristol St. Stephen.<sup>30</sup> Since he was the younger of the two, I assume he was baptised soon after his birth, probably in early 1822. And also as for Eliza, Alfred was mentioned in the 1833 removal order, so he was alive at that time.<sup>39</sup>

All my statements about further records for Eliza apply equally to Alfred, and his fate was probably similar to hers.

There is a time lag of 7 years between these baptisms and the previous one I have found for this family. This suggests that there may have been other baptisms I missed, possibly because they were at a different church that I have not researched.

## 2.5. Louisa Gillard and Charles Harrison

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Louisa Gillard	1824	Bristol	estimated 1891-1901	London
Charles Harrison	1823	Beckington, Somerset	1854	Bath, Somerset

The last child of Robert and Deborah I have a record of was baptised as Louisa Gillard on June 6, 1824 at Bristol St. James church.<sup>32</sup>



Louisa aged 6 (should be about 9) appears in the 1833 removal order for the family quoted above.<sup>39</sup> The order appears to understate her age by several years. The understatement may have been done by their mother to make the family appear more deserving to the overseers.

Louisa appears next in the 1841 census working as a servant in the household of William Wakeham, a dealer in alcohol in St. Nicholas parish of Bristol.<sup>61</sup> The Wakeham family has two female servants, so they were reasonably well off.

On August 5, 1844, Louisa Gillard married Charles Harrison at the church of Bristol St. Phillip and St. Jacob.<sup>62</sup> I should note that the original transcript of this marriage clearly shows both parties signed with an "X" mark because they could not write. The bishop's transcript of the same marriage omits the "X" mark in Charles' signature making it appear that he could write.<sup>63</sup>

I found a record of a baptism for Charles Harrison on December 14, 1823 at the Beckington and Standerwick parish church about 10 miles south of Bath.<sup>64</sup> His parents are listed as William and Maria Harrison, and the father's trade is listed as Baker.

I will not go into any detail on the children of Louisa and Charles, but I downloaded the baptisms of the children to get some idea of what the family was doing between censuses. I found five baptisms at the Church of Clifton St. Andrew in Bristol: William James in 1845;<sup>65</sup> Robert Thomas in 1849;<sup>66</sup> Frederick George in 1852;<sup>67</sup> Fanny Maria in 1854;<sup>68</sup> and Eliza Louisa in 1854.<sup>69</sup>

Charles and his father were both listed as painters on the 1844 marriage registration, but on the 1841 census they are both bakers.<sup>70</sup> I presume the cleric misheard "baker" as "painter" and he was not corrected because neither Charles nor Louisa could read what he had written. As we shall confirm later, Charles' father William Harrison was a journeyman baker. But, whether baker or painter, the 1845 baptism shows that Charles was working as a labourer in Bristol. By 1849, Charles had a job as a "waterman". According to Wikipedia:<sup>71</sup>

"A waterman is a river worker who transfers passengers across and along city centre rivers and estuaries in the United Kingdom"

In the case of Charles in Bristol, the river was the Avon. Watermen in Bristol were also pilots because it was a large port for ocean going ships. However, living in Clifton over 5 miles upriver from the ocean, Charles was too far inland for that type of work. Besides, pilots were required to apprentice and be licensed. Charles could not have apprenticed for pilot work or he would have mentioned it on his marriage. Charles was no doubt working according to the Wikipedia definition above, probably crewing a small "water taxi" ferrying customers across the river Avon. Charles appears as a waterman on the subsequent baptisms right up to 1854.

Louisa and Charles show up in the 1851 census with their second child Robert.<sup>72</sup> The census reveals that the family was living in Bedminster, a parish in Bristol. I cannot trace their actual



address, but it is obvious from the address of a neighbor on Avon Crescent that the family was living on Spike Island in the Avon River. Spike is actually an artificial island created by engineers in about 1809. The island is very close to the mainland and access is fairly easy. Spike island was partly in Clifton parish and partly in Bedminster parish. The family's location was right at the border between the parishes and is about a half mile from the Clifton St. Andrew church where the children were baptised. It is possible the family are still attending that church. An island seems like a perfect place for a waterman to live, and that is the occupation given for Charles on the census. I note that his wife Louisa is listed as a "Washerwoman" even though she had a one year old baby to care for, so the family were not well off.

Although the 1851 census shows Charles, Louisa and their second son Robert living in Bristol, they do not have their first son William. I was able to find William living with his Harrison grandparents.<sup>73</sup> They were in Beckington, about 10 miles south of Bath. Beckington was also listed as the birthplace of Charles on the 1851 census in Bristol. Grandfather William Harrison was listed with the occupation of journeyman baker.

The United Kingdom General Registry Office (GRO) has an entry for a Charles Harrison who died aged 28 in the period of January to March 1854 in the Bristol district.<sup>74</sup> I have not procured a copy of the death registration, but the age and location make me pretty sure this is the correct Charles Harrison. His death is confirmed by the entry for his widow Louisa in the 1861 census.<sup>75</sup> The GRO entry cited shows Charles died while his wife was pregnant, apparently with twins. Fanny Maria and Eliza Louisa were both baptized on April 16, 1854. So Louisa was left a widow with a family soon to include two newborns and had to support the family with her income as a washerwoman. This happened at a time when there was almost no social support available other than their own family or the workhouse.

In the 1861 census, Louisa is still in Bedminster, a suburb of Bristol, but she seems to have moved a short distance from Spike Island to the mainland. She now has four children with her, William aged 15, Robert aged 11, Frederick aged 9 and a daughter Louisa aged 7. Daughter Fanny Maria is not listed. According to the GRO index, she died in 1854.<sup>76</sup> Louisa is now a laundress which is equivalent to the previous washerwoman. William is an apprentice Ropemaker. A ropemaker was an essential worker at dockyards (including Bristol) at the time. An apprenticeship would normally not provide much help to his mother because apprentices in general received very little, if any, in wages. William may have received a little more than usual because his master did not have to provide board and lodgings to him.

The widowed Louisa is listed as being born in Bath which does not agree with her baptism. But it is possible her mother Deborah was in Bath visiting her husband's family when Louisa was born, but she was not baptised until they returned to Bristol. I can't say for sure either way.

In the 1871 census, Louisa and most of her family are still in the same area of Bristol.<sup>77</sup> However, her oldest son William is missing and there are two new children Henry age 6 and



Charles age 5 who are listed as her sons. Louisa is listed as 46, so she could have been the parent of the boys, but obviously her husband who died in 1854 could not be the father. Nevertheless, it seems unlikely to me that Louisa was the mother, so I did some digging. I found baptisms that I assume are the two boys in the census.

Henry Thomson Harrison was baptised on 26 July 1867 in the church of Redcliffe St. Mary in Bristol.<sup>78</sup> The parents are listed as Charles and Louisa. Since Charles was obviously dead, I checked for a birth in the online GRO index and found the same birth listed there in 1864.<sup>79</sup> The difference in dates just means the boy was not baptised until he was almost 3 years old. I was very surprised to see that his mother's maiden name was Gillard, meaning Louisa was the mother. So I now reluctantly accept Louisa as the mother of Henry, and classify the father as unknown.

Charles Harrison was baptized on February 12, 1869 at Bristol St. Raphael, a church near the dockyard on Spike Island.<sup>80</sup> The parents are listed as William and Mary Anne. So I also checked the GRO index and found Charles listed in 1866 with a middle name of Henry and a mother's maiden name of Humphries.<sup>81</sup> This looks like he may be the son of Louisa's son William.

Hoping to clear up the issue, I found a marriage of Louisa's son William James Gillard to Mary Ann Humphries in 1864 in Clifton Holy Trinity church in Bristol.<sup>82</sup> It is the right William because he has completed his apprenticeship and is listed as a ropemaker. And of course, it is the right Mary Ann because her maiden name matches the GRO index.

But, according to the website of Master Ropemakers at the historic Royal Navy dockyard at Chatham:<sup>83</sup>

The number of male Ropemakers fell in the 1860's from 150 to 30 men with the introduction of machines and the intake of female workers. 1864 marked the introduction of the spinning machine to the upper floor of The Ropery and women workers were employed to look after the new machines.

If similar upgrades took place in Bristol, there is the possibility that William went elsewhere to find work. However, he probably wouldn't have left the children unless his wife had died. But his wife Mary Ann did die a little over a year after Charles' birth in 1867 according to a record at the GRO.<sup>84</sup> I also searched for William's death with no recognizable result. I have searched the 1871 census for him and also found no reasonable candidate. I do not know whether he died or left to find a job.

To sum up the info on the boys Henry and Charles in the census: Henry was a son and Charles a grandson of Louisa. Charles' mother died soon after he was born and William left Charles with Louisa.

In the 1881 census, Louisa appears to have moved to London.<sup>85</sup> Louisa is living with her son



Robert and her younger son Henry. All three are listed as exactly ten years older than they were in the 1871 census in Bristol. All three have their birthplace listed as "Gloucestersh, Bristol". The family are living on Abbott Street in Bromley St. Leonard, London. This is very close to the East India dockyard and it is pretty obvious the family moved to London to get jobs in a dockyard.

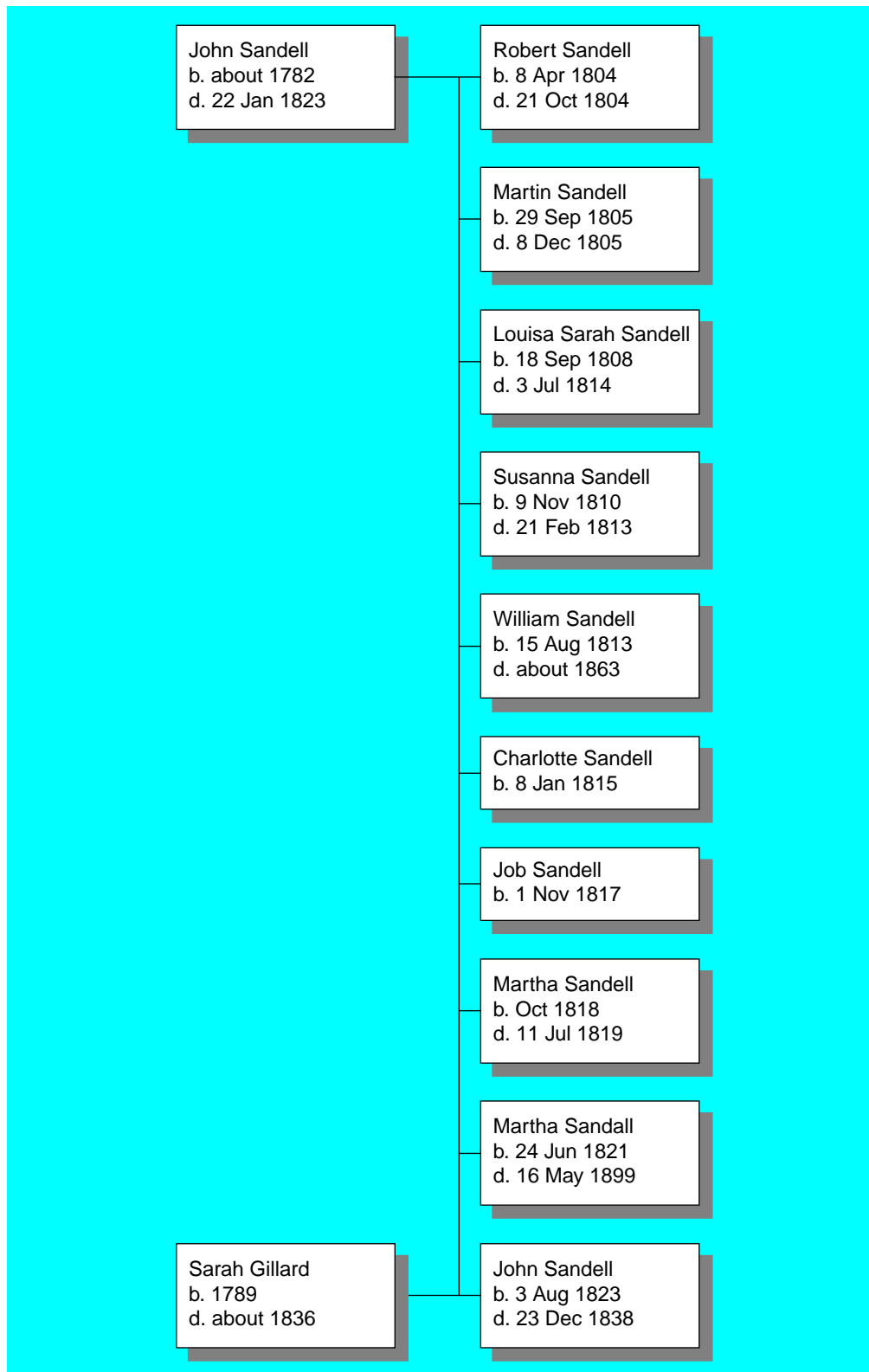
On the census, Louisa has no occupation listed, so she may have retired as a washerwoman. Her son Robert is listed as a dock labourer and Henry as a labourer in an iron works. By this time, iron ships were the norm and every dockyard had an iron works. In fact the census may be referring to "Thames Ironworks and Shipbuilding and Engineering Company Ltd." which was also very close to Abbott Street.<sup>86</sup> By 1881, this company was specializing in warships and liners. They built ships for navies all over Europe. In the 1890s they were one of the first companies to introduce an eight-hour day for workers. This company was probably a good place to work by the standards of the time.

In the 1891 census, Louisa is in almost the same place with a slightly different address.<sup>87</sup> She is 67 and her son Robert is 41. Her birthplace is given as Bath, and his as "Bristol Hotwells" which is very close to Clifton where he was baptised. Louisa has no occupation and Robert is still a dock labourer.

I can find no 1901 census for Louisa, but there is one for Robert.<sup>88</sup> He is still living in the same area, but is now boarding with another family. He is still a "Dock Laborer". If he is working at the Thames Ironworks dockyard, he may even have the eight hour day and other benefits the company is famous for. From Louisa's absence from the 1901 Census, I conclude she must have died in the period 1891 to 1901. I have not found a suitable record in the FreeBMD death index.



### 3. Sarah Gillard and John Sandell



Family Tree 6. Family of Sarah Gillard and John Sandell



Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Sarah Gillard	1789	Bath, Somerset	about 1836	Bath, Somerset
John Sandell	about 1782	probably Bath, Somerset	1823	Bath, Somerset

I have found no record of the baptism of Sarah Gillard, but I accept that she is a daughter of Robert and Susanna for several reasons. There is a large number of families in Utah who are descended from her. These descendants share a great interest in genealogy and have produced many family trees. All those that I have seen that go back far enough show her parents as Robert and Susanna of Bath. When I began this research, I could not find any that had a maiden surname for Susanna. In addition to this, the many DNA matches of Ben's daughter and her nephew to these Utah descendants seem to confirm they belong to his family.

Most of these trees show Sarah as born in 1789 in "Wales, Bath" or even "Wales of Bath". I don't know of any area in Bath called Wales. My best guess for an explanation of this entry is that the "Walls of Bath" could refer to a location near the Bath city walls or gates which were known places at the time. "Walls" can easily be mistaken for Wales in handwriting, just as I have seen "Sandall" mistaken for "Sandale" when the second "l" is shorter than the first. In any case, I have unsuccessfully searched for her baptism in the Tiverton area where her oldest sibling Robert was born and the Bath area where the rest of her siblings were born.

The date of 1789 is a bit unusual for this family because that would mean that Sarah would be only 14 at the time of her marriage on July 4, 1803.<sup>3</sup> There is no mention of the parental approval, which would be required for such a marriage, in the marriage document. However, the document does seem to be witnessed by her uncle Daniel Gillard which may signify approval.

As we will see, I have found the baptism of her first child Robert on April 8, 1804.<sup>89</sup> This child was baptised exactly 9 months and 4 days after the wedding. Sarah may have been pregnant when she married, but if so, probably not far enough along that she would know it. This makes her age even more problematic. The wedding would make a lot more sense if Sarah were a little older, perhaps being born in the interval between her two oldest siblings Robert in 1785 and Richard in 1788. A birth in that period would make her 16 or 17 at marriage, which is much more reasonable.

Nevertheless, the marriage of Sarah Gillard to John Sandell on July 4, 1803 at Bath St. James is the first actual record I have for her.<sup>3</sup> Both the bride and groom are listed as "of this parish". Neither party could write. One of the witnesses is Daniel Gillard who I think is the Bride's uncle as listed in [Section A.3](#).



There is a burial record for John Sandell on January 22, 1823 in the parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe in Bath.<sup>90</sup> His age is given as 40 years which calculates to a birth in 1782-3. At the time of his death, John was living on Wincombe Parade. This burial is for the right John because there is a notation on the August 3, 1823 baptism of his son John junior that "The father died before the birth of this child".<sup>91</sup> The death probably occurred about 7-8 months before the birth, so Sarah had to support the family by herself for that long during her pregnancy.

I have found no death or burial record for Sarah, but I have found a biography for her daughter Martha Sandall attached to a family tree of Utah descendants.<sup>92</sup> According to the biography

"Martha SANDALL was born in England in 1820. Her father died when she was just three years old, and her mother died of the cholera when she was 16 years of age, which left this young girl to make her own way in life by herself."

The date given for the death of Martha's father agrees with the date calculated from the baptism of John given above. The date given for the death of Martha's mother Sarah calculates to about 1836. The text also implies that she died in Bath before Martha moved to Bristol. The fact that Martha was alone after her mother's death implies that all her siblings had either left home or were dead.

The children of Sarah Gillard and John Sandell are listed below.

## 3.1. Robert Sandell

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Robert Sandell	1804	Bath, Somerset	1804	Bath, Somerset

I have found a record of the baptism of Robert Sandel with parents John and Sarah dated April 8, 1804 in Walcot parish of Bath.<sup>89</sup> The date makes it likely that Robert was the first child of Sarah and John.

But Robert did not live long. There is a record of his burial on October 21, 1804 in the churchyard of Bath St. James.<sup>93</sup> There is no mention of his parents, but this is pretty clearly the same Robert who was born 6 months earlier.

## 3.2. Martin Sandell

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Martin Sandell	1805	Bath, Somerset	1805	Bath, Somerset



The first record I have for Martin Sandell is for his baptism on September 29, 1805 at the Bath St. James Church.<sup>94</sup> The baptismal register clearly shows his parents as John and Sarah Sandell.

The only other record I have for Martin is that of his burial on December 8, 1805 in the churchyard of Bath St. James.<sup>95</sup> Unfortunately, Martin only lived for a little over two months. His parents must have been heartbroken because this was the second child in a row to die very young.

### 3.3. Louisa Sarah Sandell

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Louisa Sarah Sandell	1808	Bath, Somerset	1814	Bath, Somerset

There is a record of the baptism of Louisa Sarah Sandell on September 18, 1808 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>96</sup> The parents are John and Sarah. The baptism is three years after that of Martin, so there may have been an intervening birth or stillbirth that I have no knowledge of.

And again, the only other record I have for Louisa Sarah is her listing on Find a Grave in the Bath St. James Old Burial Ground.<sup>97</sup> Her name was spelled Sandall and she was buried on July 3, 1814 so she lived until she was almost 6 years old. The listing also states that her family were living on Peter Street when she died.

### 3.4. Susanna Sandell

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Susanna Sandell	1810	Bath, Somerset	1813	Bath, Somerset

Parents Sarah and John had their daughter Susannah Sandall baptised on November 9, 1810 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath.<sup>98</sup> The church register spells the name that way, but I am assuming she was named after her grandmother Susanna Quick Gillard.

There is also a listing of the grave of Susanna in the Bath St. James Old Burial Ground on Find a Grave.<sup>99</sup> The listing is dated February 21, 1813 so she was less than 3 years old. The listing has a calculated birth date of 1811 which differs slightly from the baptism.



### 3.5. William Sandell and Hannah Barnett

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
William Sandell	1813	Bath, Somerset	about 1863	Dungog, New South Wales
Hannah Barnett	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown

On August 15, 1813 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath William Sandell was baptised.<sup>100</sup> The parents were Sarah Gillard and John Sandell and the father's occupation was mason.

From the following gaol records, we shall see that William was married and had a child in 1833 or before. I have only found a single marriage that fits this restraint. That is the marriage of William Sendall to Hannah Barnett on October 29, 1832 at Walcot St. Swithin parish in Bath.<sup>101</sup> Neither the bride nor groom had been previously married, and neither could sign their name. I could not find any record of the baptism of any child to this marriage, even though a child is later mentioned. I have not been able to track down a credible baptism or any later records for Hannah Barnett.

There is a record for William Sandall who was admitted to the Ilchester Gaol March 28, 1833.<sup>102</sup> He was 19 years old at the time and he was charged with housebreaking and stealing 3 Hams. It was noted that he had been 3 times in Custody as a vagrant. He was found guilty and sentenced to hang. Basically using today's terminology, a hungry homeless person was sentenced to die for stealing food. Fortunately, his sentence was commuted to transportation to Australia for life (maybe the judges had just wanted to put the fear of God into him). There is a note that he was 'Removed to the "York" Hulk at Gosport 24 May 1833'. This was a prison hulk on the south coast of England where he awaited shipment to Australia.

I should note that almost all the following records show the name as Sandall. This is to be expected since William could not write and the first policeman or prison clerk seems to have written the name in official records with that spelling.

William didn't have to wait long for his ocean cruise. He sailed on the ship "Aurora" on July 3, 1833 and arrived in New South Wales on November 3, of that same year.<sup>103</sup> When he arrived, they made a detailed description of William for identification purposes.<sup>104</sup> This indenture also helps to confirm it is the right William. In it, William is described as age 19, able to read, Protestant religion, and married with 1 child, thus confirming the marriage to Hannah Barnett. His birthplace is given as Bath and his trade is "Mason's Labourer". This connects us to his father John Sandell who was a mason. However John died in 1823 when William was only 10.<sup>90</sup> But, he had an uncle James Oatley who was also a mason (see [Section 4](#)). Besides that the family may have had mason friends who knew his father and employed the son.



There is a convict list made up when William arrived showing how he was "disposed of".<sup>105</sup> He was sent to work for a settler in Surry Hills very close to Sydney. The settler's name was Dominick Popeylarkis, but I know nothing about him.

William next appears on a list of convicts granted a Ticket of Leave during the year 1842.<sup>106</sup> As previously explained, this is a form of parole allowing convicts to live and work in the community, but regularly reporting to the police.

There is an interesting arrest of William Sandall from the records of the gaol in Newcastle, NSW.<sup>107</sup> Newcastle is a town on the coast of Australia a little less than 100 miles north of Sydney. He was actually committed to jail on November 1, 1847 by a judge in Dungog which is 50 miles inland from Newcastle. He was not committed for a crime, but rather for safe custody in a case of "Temporary Insanity". I am not quite sure what this means, but since he was a convict on "parole", he probably did not commit any violent acts or harm anyone (because the judge would take a very dim view of that in a parolee). Possibly he tried to harm himself. He was discharged the same month on November 26th. The Dungog court is interesting because it probably means that he was living in that area when this occurred.

Finally, William is granted a conditional pardon on July 10, 1848.<sup>108</sup> The Australian Female Convicts Research Centre defines a conditional pardon as follows:<sup>109</sup>

A convict became eligible to apply for a Conditional Pardon after a certain amount of their sentence had expired. It was approved if they were of good behaviour and holding a Ticket of Leave: If under sentence for seven years, shall have held the ticket of leave for one year, and served four years in the colony; if under sentence for fourteen years, shall have held a Ticket of Leave for two years and served six years in the colony; and if sentenced for life, held a Ticket of Leave for three years and served eight years in the colony.

Convicts applied at their local Police Office and the application was sent to the King or Queen for approval, which was often given a year or so after the application. A Conditional Pardon gave the convict the status of a free person except that they were only allowed to travel within certain jurisdictions, usually the Australian colonies and New Zealand.

In William's case, the condition allowed him to travel anywhere in the world, except the United Kingdom. The pardon contained the description of him originally recorded when he arrived in NSW, except it gave his year of Birth as 1814 instead of his age. The description was obviously there to prevent the pardon being used by some other unpardoned convict.

William Sandall appears in the NSW Police Gazette on April 16, 1857, but this time as a victim, not a criminal.<sup>110</sup>

Stolen from Mr. William Sandall, at Dungog, about half-past 5 of the 8th of April, 1857, one



sovereign and £1 note by John Glesson, who is about 21 or 22 years of age, 5 feet 4 inches or 5 feet 6 inches high, stout made, freckled, brown hair, wore a blouse and a dirty cabbage-tree hat. This man has lately come out of Parramatta Gaol, where he served a sentence of two years for a former robbery. Information received at this Office 5th inst.

The address in Dungog makes it quite probable that this is indeed the pardoned convict that we are following. It is difficult to judge much from the article, but William is obviously not destitute and may be doing reasonably for himself.

I have found no record of a marriage for him in NSW, and he probably lived alone with no family. The mental health episode earlier may mean that he has few friends as well.

There is a record in the NSW death records index for William Sandall, age 50 who died in 1863 in Dungog.<sup>111</sup> I have not purchased an image of the record, but this is almost certainly our William.

### 3.6. Charlotte Sandell

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Charlotte Sandell	1815	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

Charlotte Sandell was baptised on January 8, 1815 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath.<sup>112</sup> Her parents were Sarah Gillard and John Sandell and the father's occupation was mason.

I have not found any record of Charlotte's death or marriage.

### 3.7. Job Sandell

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Job Sandell	1817	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

Job Sandell (along with siblings John and Martha as shown below) was baptised on August 3, 1823 at the Lyncombe and Widcombe Church in Bath, but a birth date of November 1, 1817 was also given for Job.<sup>113</sup> His parents were Sarah Gillard and John Sandell and the father's occupation was mason. However, there is a note that the father was dead at the time of the Baptism (that is in August 1823).

There is a record of a trial at the Somerset county Assizes on April 1, 1837 of Job Sandall age 17 for robbery.<sup>114</sup> The verdict was guilty, and the sentence was death by hanging. I can't imagine how he felt about that sentence. Fortunately for him it was commuted to transportation to



Australia for life. While he was in gaol, a description was recorded of him that has survived.<sup>115</sup> In that his age is given as 16, 1 year younger than at trial. Both of those must be underestimates, because a calculation from the birth date listed in his baptism gives an age of 19. The confusion may be caused because he was over 5 years old when he was baptised. Job is described as 5 feet 1 inch tall, stout, fresh complexion, brown hair and hazel eyes. He is pock marked indicating he has had smallpox. He was born in Widcombe parish of Bath and lived in Holloway, an area of Bath in that parish. His trade was labourer. He was listed as single with no children.

Job Sendal finally sailed with 200 convicts for Australia on the ship "Emma Eugenia" on November 2, 1837.<sup>116 117</sup> The ship arrived in NSW on February 9, 1838 after a little over 3 months at sea. Once arrived, the convicts were scrutinized to provide a complete description for their indenture.<sup>118</sup> The description was similar to that produced earlier in the Somerset Gaol, but with the following differences. His trade or calling was Shepherd's boy. This must be the trade he would like to adopt in Australia because he was a city boy in Bath. His offence was highway robbery. He was 5 feet 0 inches, so he must have lost an inch or else one of the measurements was wrong. The more thorough examination in NSW noticed a "small raised mole on lower part of right side of throat".

There is a ticket of leave (or parole) for Job Sendal dated June 7, 1845.<sup>119</sup> It gives him permission to live and work in the area of Windsor, NSW which is about 35 miles inland from Sydney.

Job Sendal was granted a conditional pardon on October 5, 1849 eleven and a half years after his conviction.<sup>120</sup> The condition of the pardon was that he could live in any part of the world except Great Britain.

I have found no further record of Job after his pardon, and I find this a little surprising because the name is fairly unique and therefore easy to recognize. In particular, his brother William was pardoned a year before him, but I find no record of Job joining his brother in Dungog. Job may have died or left the country shortly after his pardon. I have not looked very much outside NSW for him and certainly not outside the country.



### 3.8. Martha Sandall and Thomas Elsmore

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Martha Sandell	1818	Bath, Somerset	1819	Bath, Somerset
Martha Sandall	1821	Bath, Somerset	1899	Salt Lake City, Utah
Thomas Elsmore	1820	Colwich, Staffordshire	1888	Salt Lake City, Utah
George Chatfield	1817	Ditchling, Sussex	1886	Salt Lake City, Utah

The first daughter of Sarah and John who was named Martha was born about October 1818, but I have no record of a baptism. I do have the burial of 9 month old Martha on July 11, 1819 listed in the register of the parish church of Lyncombe and Widcombe in Bath.<sup>121</sup>

The second daughter also named Martha was baptised on August 3, 1823 at Lyncombe and Widcombe church, but it is noted that she was actually born on June 24, 1821.<sup>122</sup> The baptism was on the same day as that of brothers Job Sandell listed above and John Sandell listed below. It has the same note that the father was dead added to the baptism.

Martha married Thomas Elsmore in St. Pancras Parish Chapel in London on June 1, 1845.<sup>123</sup> I call her Martha Sandall because that is how she signed the register at her marriage. Thomas was listed as a joiner and his father James was a shoemaker. Martha's father is shown as John Sandall and he is listed as dead.

The Find a Grave listing for Thomas Elsmore gives the date of his birth as September 15, 1820 in Colwich, Stafford Borough, Staffordshire, England.<sup>124</sup>

As previously mentioned, I have found a biography of Martha apparently passed down from descendants in Utah.<sup>92</sup> The biography mentions the following twelve children of Martha and Thomas: Maria born 1846, Sarah born 1847, Joseph Hyrum born 1849, Nephi born 1850, Jannie born 1852, Maroni born 1854, Emily born 1856, Rose born 1858, Hannah born 1859, Thomas born 1860, Alice born 1861 and Helen(Allen) born 1863. I have not researched these children in any detail.

Martha and Thomas Elsmore[sic] appear in the 1851 census living in St. Pancras, London.<sup>125</sup> Thomas is 30 years of age and works as a carpenter. His birthplace is given as "Stafford Town". Martha is also 30 and is born in Bath, Somerset. Their children are Martha junior age 5 (probably a mistake for Maria), Joseph age 2 and N(ephi) age 5 months.



Next Martha and Thomas Elsmore appear in the 1861 census living in St. Sepulchre, London.<sup>126</sup> St. Sepulchre is about a mile or two from St. Pancras, so they have moved, but not far. Thomas is 40 years of age and works as a house carpenter. His birthplace is given as Colwich, Staffordshire. Martha is also 40 and again is born in Bath, Somerset. Their children are Joseph age 12, Nephi age 10, Jane age 8, and Emily age 4. These ages are about the same as those given in the biography listed above.

The biography continues the story:

On 3 Jun 1863. Martha's oldest daughter left England with her new husband for America. It was five years later, in 1868, that she would also pack up and leave with her children to join her daughter and family in Utah. Her husband, Thomas, stayed behind in England to finish the preparations before he could join his family one year later in 1869.

Martha and her children crossed the plains with mule teams and arrived in the valley in 1868. The family went to Pleasant Grove to live with their daughter, Maria and her husband and their children whom she had never seen. The following [year] was filled with much anticipation as they waited for Thomas to join them. When he arrived in Utah, it became difficult to find work in Pleasant Grove, so Thomas and Martha and their children moved to Salt Lake City where they lived for the rest of their lives.

Martha is next seen in the 1870 census of Pleasant Grove, Utah.<sup>127</sup> She appears to be age 47 (instead of 50) and keeping house. Her children with her are Joseph age 21 and a carpenter, Nephi age 20 also a carpenter, Emily age 14, Alice age 9 and Ellen age 7. It appears that husband Thomas has not arrived in Utah in time for the census, or is possibly away from home for some reason.

In 1880, Martha again appears without Thomas in the census of Salt Lake City.<sup>128</sup> Martha is now listed as 50 although her true age is about 60. Her occupation is Nurse. Her children still at home are: Emily aged 23 and a dressmaker, Alice aged 18 doing housework and Ellen aged 16 also doing housework.

It appears that Thomas is missing because he and Martha are separated or divorced. There is a record of a divorce at the Western States Marriage Record Index website maintained by Brigham Young University - Idaho.<sup>129</sup> There is no date given on the index, but a date of "abt 1880" is given in the Find a Grave listing for Thomas.<sup>124</sup> The listing also gives a date of death for Thomas of December 22, 1888 and he is buried in Salt Lake City.

There is an obituary of Thomas available online from BYU Digital Collections.<sup>130</sup> The item was originally published in The Deseret News in Salt Lake City on December 26, 1888 on page 5. The obituary says:



At 7 o'clock this morning Thomas Elsmore died at the city jail. As noted in the News, Mr. Elsmore was picked up by the police a few days ago in a very bad condition. He was cleaned up and seemed to improve. But the dissipated life he has led had told too heavily upon his system for him to rally, and yesterday afternoon he began to sink. Most of his companions when he was at liberty are now in jail for various offenses, and were present during his last hours. He was about 65 years of age, and his case presented a pitiable spectacle of the effects of beer drinking.

His heavy drinking was most likely the cause or the result of his divorce. Even though divorce was legal in the United States, I presume that Thomas would have been rejected by all "respectable" society at the time which would have only exacerbated his condition.

After the divorce, Martha married again. I do not have a record of the marriage, but on the Find a Grave listing for her new husband George Chatfield, it gives the date as March 10, 1886 in Logan, Cache, Utah.<sup>131</sup> It gives George's birth as January 17, 1817 in Ditchling, Lewes District, East Sussex, England. It also records that George died on August 3, 1886 at the age of 69 leaving Martha alone again after only a few months of marriage.

Martha followed her two husbands on May 16, 1899 according to her Find a Grave listing.<sup>132</sup> I note that listing and its grave marker photograph seem to give the wrong birth year. They show the year of Martha's baptism (1823) rather than the year of her birth as recorded in the baptism (1821).<sup>122</sup> Consequently they show her age as 75 rather than 77. The listing also contains an obituary from the Deseret News. The following lines are from that obituary:

She leaves 7 living children, 54 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. She was a loving mother and faithful, energetic Latter-day Saint.

### 3.9. John Sandell

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
John Sandell	1823	Bath, Somerset	1838	Bath, Somerset

The last child of Sarah and John was John Sandell who was baptised on August 3, 1823 at the Lyncombe and Widcombe parish church in Bath.<sup>91</sup> The birth date is not given, but Job and Martha were baptised at the same time and their birth dates were given separately. The implication is that John's birth date was current and therefore not required to be stated. There is also the note that John's father died before he was born. From this I imply that John senior died earlier in 1823 and of course John junior was named after him.

Find a Grave has a listing for John Sandall junior buried December 23, 1838 at the church of St.



Thomas à Becket in Widcombe, Bath.<sup>133</sup> There is no age given on the record, but it is in the right parish so there is a reasonable chance it is the right one.



## 4. Harriet Gillard and James Oatley



Family Tree 7. Family of Harriet Gillard and James Oatley



Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Harriet Gillard	probably 1790	Bath, Somerset	1876	Bath, Somerset
James Oatley	about 1786	Bath, Somerset	1865	Bath, Somerset

I have found a baptism record that I am pretty sure is Harriet Gillard on April 4, 1790.<sup>134</sup> The record lists her parents as Robert and Susanna and the baptism took place at Walcot St. Swithin in Bath as did those of a number of the Gillard children. The only discrepancy is that the Surname is given as Dillon instead of Gillard. The surname is not a modern transcription error, it is clear that the original writing is Dillon. The name must have been recorded that way at the original baptism, or in an early copy. As far as the name Dillon goes, I find no other baptisms with parents Robert and Susanna Dillon (or variations thereof) anywhere in Somerset in the Ancestry collection of parish registers for the period. I also find no marriage for Robert Dillon (or variations thereof) to Susanna (or variations thereof). This makes me think it is likely that the cleric made a simple mistake in recording the surname and that this is actually the baptism of Harriet Gillard.

From circumstantial evidence, I am sure that Robert Gillard and Susanna Quick had a daughter Harriet, even though the baptism record is not conclusive. The next record of Harriet that I have found is her marriage on October 13, 1811 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>135</sup> The marriage gives the name of the groom as James Whatley and both bride and groom are of the parish of St. James. Although the cleric recorded the name as Whatley, it was signed a little differently. The signature appears to say James Wotley or possibly James Notley. The name is otherwise spelled as Otley, Oatley and Oakley at different times and by different members of the family as we shall see. For this book, I will use Oatley because that seems to be the most common spelling, although some of the children adopted the spelling Oakley. Having said that, I suspect it was actually pronounced "Otley" or "Ockley" at the time.

One of the witnesses to the marriage was Mary Quick. This name is part of the circumstantial evidence connecting Harriet to Robert and Susanna since Susanna's maiden name was Quick. I assume that Mary Quick was a cousin (or possibly an aunt) of Harriet Gillard.

On the 1841 census, Harriet and James Oatley appear with their nine children in the city of Bath in Lyncombe and Widcombe parish.<sup>136</sup> All the family are listed as born in Somerset county. The children listed are: James age 25, William age 20, Sussana[sic] age 15, Henry age 14, Eliza age 13, Charles age 12, Frederic[sic] age 10, Lousia[sic] age 8 and Edwin age 7. Both James and his oldest son, also James, are listed as masons. The only other person with an occupation listed is William who is a labourer.

In the 1851 census, the family is recorded as James and Harriet Oakley.<sup>137</sup> Harriet is 61 years old and James is 65. By this time, most of the kids have left home, leaving only Frederick age 20 and Louisa age 19. Both James and Frederick are listed as journeyman masons. The family are still



in Bath city, Lyncombe and Widcombe parish, but at a different address. The birthplace of all family members is given as Bath.

In the 1861 census, the name is back to Harriet and James Oatley.<sup>138</sup> Harriet is listed as 73 and James as 74. Louisa is the only child at home, and she is age 30. The family is not only living in the same parish as the previous census, they are at the same address. James is listed as a journeyman mason, Harriet is a "mason's wife" and Louisa a laundress.

There is a burial at Bath St. James cemetery for James Oatley on April 9, 1865.<sup>139</sup> James' age is given as 79 which gives a birth date of 1786, so this is Harriet's husband. That identification is confirmed by the 1871 census which lists Harriet as a widow.<sup>140</sup> She is 85 years old and still living in Bath in the same parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe. She has a Susan Oatley aged 34 living with her who is listed as her daughter and also a grandson John Oatley aged 7. Susan is listed as a washerwoman and presumably she now supports the family.

A little over 10 years after the death of James Oatley, there is another burial at Bath St. James cemetery in the same plot for his wife Harriet. She died on February 6, 1876 at the age of 85.<sup>141</sup>

The following paragraphs discuss all known children of Harriet Gillard and James Oatley. The identification is based mainly on baptisms showing the father as James and the mother as Harriet with the maiden name unspecified.

## 4.1. Mary Oatley

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Mary Oatley	1812	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

The only evidence I have for Mary is her baptism at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath on August 10, 1812.<sup>142</sup> Mary is not listed with her family in the 1841 census. I have found no burial record for her under her maiden name, nor have I found a marriage record for her. I do not have enough information to say more.

## 4.2. James Oatley and Maria Wiltshire

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
James Oatley	1813	Bath, Somerset	1868	Bath, Somerset
Maria Wiltshire	about 1817	Bath, Somerset	about 1884	Bath, Somerset

There is a record for the baptism of James Oatley on Christmas day in 1813 at the church of



Walcot St. Swithin in Bath.<sup>143</sup> The surname is spelled Otley and the parents are James and Harriet. The father's occupation is mason.

James married Maria Wiltshire on May 27, 1844 at Lyncombe and Widcombe Church in Bath.<sup>144</sup> The cleric entered the surnames as Oatley and Wilsher, but the parties signed them as Otley and Wiltshire. James is a mason, and his father is James, also a mason. Maria's father is recorded as John Wilsher, a yeoman. One of the witnesses is Henry Oatley who is no doubt the brother of the groom.

James and Maria appear by themselves in the 1861 census of Lyncombe and Widcombe.<sup>145</sup> He is listed as a mason and both show a birthplace of Bath in Somerset. He is 48 years old and she is 44 giving her birth date as about 1817. This date is consistent with other sources listed later, so I am using it for my family tree.

The Probate Calendar for England for 1868 records the death of James Oatley.<sup>146</sup>

Letters of Administration of the Personal estate and effects of James Oakley otherwise Oatley late of 12 Regent's-terrace in the Parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe in the City of Bath Mason deceased who died 15 January at the City aforesaid were granted at Bristol to Maria Oakley otherwise Oatley of 12 Regent's-terrace aforesaid Widow the Relict of the said Deceased she having been first sworn.

Maria Oatley appears as a 53 year old widow (born about 1818) on the 1871 census of Lyncombe and Widcombe parish.<sup>147</sup> She is a lodging house keeper and so has lodgers, but no other recognizable family members. Her birth place is still Bath.

In the next census in 1881, Maria aged 63 appears in the same parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe.<sup>148</sup> She is still running a lodging house with some of the same lodgers as 10 years before, so she must have had a good relationship with them. The only difference in this census is that she now says her birth place is Frome instead of Bath. Frome is about 12 miles south of Bath. I don't know which is the correct place, but I will stick with Bath since that is her birthplace on the majority of censuses.

Maria died 16 years after James at age 65 in the period January to March 1884 according to the GRO death index.<sup>149</sup> There is also a listing for her on Find a Grave showing she was buried in the same plot as her husband at St. James' Cemetery in Bath.<sup>150</sup> Unfortunately, the listing does not have a birth or death date for her, but I identify her from her husband's burial.

### 4.3. George Oatley

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
George Oatley	1816	Bath, Somerset	1817	Bath, Somerset



James and Harriet had a son baptised George Oatley on January 14, 1816 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath.<sup>151</sup> They were living on Monmouth street at the time, and James was working as a Mason.

Unfortunately, George did not survive long. His grave is listed on Find a Grave in the St. James old burial ground in Bath with a date of January 10, 1817.<sup>152</sup> His age at death was listed as 1 year which seems to be almost exactly correct.

## 4.4. Harriet Oatley and Thomas Sheppard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Harriet Oatley	1817	Bath, Somerset	1879	Bath, Somerset
Thomas Sheppard	1820	Trowbridge, Wiltshire	1881	Bath, Somerset

Harriet Ottley was baptised September 7, 1817 at the church of Walcot St. Mary in Bath.<sup>153</sup> Her parents were named James and Harriet and her father was a mason, so despite the misspelling of the name, it is clear she is a member of this Oatley family. The family were living on Monmouth street at the time.

Harriet does not appear with the family in the 1841 census.<sup>136</sup> However, at about 23 she is old enough to go out and earn a living. I cannot identify her in the 1841 census, but that is not surprising. The 1841 census rounds ages and does not spell out birthplaces, so many of the normal clues are inapplicable.

The next record I have for her is her marriage to Thomas Sheperd in 1845 at the St. Thomas a Beckett church in Bath.<sup>154</sup> The record comes from a marriage index at the Bath BMD website.

I have found a possible record of Harriet and Thomas in the 1851 census, but I can't be sure it is them.<sup>155</sup> The census shows Thomas and Harriet Sheppard as both 30 years old which is reasonably close. Thomas is born in Trowbridge, Wiltshire which we shall see agrees with the following censuses. Harriet is born in the same place which is not correct, but listing the wife as born in the same place as the husband is a common mistake in censuses. The biggest problem is that the couple are living in St. Michael Queenhithe parish of London. This is inconsistent with subsequent censuses. Another problem is that Thomas is listed as a Wharf Laborer which again does not agree with any later census. All things considered, the couple may have gone to London for a few years to make their fortune, but it is only speculation without more proof.

In 1861, Harriet and Thomas Sheppard have returned to Bath (if they ever left) and are listed in the census of Lyncombe and Widcombe parish.<sup>156</sup> Thomas is now 41 years old and working as a



coal merchant employing 5 men and 1 boy. He is born in Trowbridge. Harriet is 42 years old and is born in Bath. They have no children.

In the next census of 1871 the couple are still in the Bath parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe.<sup>157</sup> Thomas Sheppard is 51 and wife Harriet is 53. Thomas is now a Publican, meaning he owns a tavern or "pub". His birthplace is again Trowbridge, Wiltshire and Harriet's is Bath. There are still no children.

Harriet died in 1879 and is buried in St. James' Cemetery in Bath.<sup>158</sup> The listing in Find a Grave gives a date of April 19, 1879 and her age at death as 60 years.

Thomas married again about a year after Harriet's death to the widow of Harriet's brother as is explained later in [Section 4.8](#).

When Thomas died in 1881, he was buried in St. James cemetery in the same plot as Harriet.<sup>159</sup> It appears he made an agreement with his second wife that they would each be buried with their first spouse rather than the second.

## 4.5. Ann Oatley

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Ann Oatley	1818	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

There is a baptism for Ann Oatley at the church of Bath St. James on September 20, 1818.<sup>160</sup> Her parents were James and Harriet and they lived on Horse Street. James was a mason.

Ann does not appear with the rest of the family in the 1841 census.<sup>136</sup> However, she would be about 23 at the time of the census if she were still alive, so she may be married or working elsewhere. I have not been able to identify Ann in the 1841 census, or in a marriage record or death record. Despite other possibilities, there is no clear evidence that she lived past childhood. In an age of high infant mortality, the most likely scenario is that she died very young.

## 4.6. Susanna Oatley

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Susanna Oatley	1822	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

James and Harriet had a daughter Susanna Oatley baptised July 7, 1822 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath.<sup>161</sup> The father James was listed as a Labourer, rather than his usual Mason.



The family were living at number 2 Gibb's Court. Susanna was probably named after her maternal grandmother Susanna Quick.

Susanna appears with the rest of her family on the 1841 census of Lyncombe and Widcombe parish in Bath.<sup>136</sup> The census lists her full given name rather than the shortened form of Susan. Her age is listed as 15, but that age was probably rounded down by the enumerator. According to instructions to the census enumerators, ages "over 15 were to be rounded down to the nearest 5 years".<sup>162</sup> Her actual age based on her baptism would be 19 and when rounded it agrees with the census.

She is not with the family in the 1851 census.<sup>137</sup> I cannot clearly identify her in that census or in the one in 1861, nor can I find a marriage or death record. She may have died and the fact has not been recorded.

It is possible, but unlikely, that Susanna appeared with her mother Harriet in the 1871 census for Lyncombe and Widcombe parish.<sup>140</sup> The head of household is Harriet aged 85 and a widow as discussed previously. The census also lists a daughter Susan age 34 employed as a washer woman, as Harriet was when younger. There are a lot of concerns with this listing. The age is off by 15 years, Susanna's age based on her baptism would be 49. The "condition" (that is marital status) column lists Susan as a widow. Based on age and condition, it is most likely that Susan is a daughter in law, rather than a daughter. But there are no known wives of any of Harriet's sons who are called Susan, let alone that meet the age listed. I cannot clearly identify who the Susan is that is living with Harriet in 1871.

There is a death for a Susan Oatley that I have determined is not our Susanna, but I give it here because others incorrectly list it as ours. Susan died December 28, 1874 and is buried in St. James cemetery.<sup>163</sup> Her age at death of 45 gives her a birth date of about 1829 which is too young for our Susanna. The real clincher though is that she is buried in a family plot with three other members. Susan and the other family members are all listed on the 1841 census as children of Samuel Oatley, who is a male servant in Walcot.<sup>164</sup> Also, Susan's age in 1841 is listed as 9 years, giving a birth date of 1832 which means she is probably even younger than indicated by the St. James burial. Because she was living with another family in 1841 when our Susanna was with her parents, the two girls must obviously be different people.

I have found no credible death or burial for Susanna Oatley, daughter of James and Harriet, at any time after the 1841 census which is the last clearly identified record of her.



## 4.7. William Oakley and Bridget Gartlany

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
William Oakley	1823	Bath, Somerset	1899	New Norfolk, Tasmania
Bridget Gartlany	1825	Meath, Ireland	1899	New Norfolk, Tasmania

William's story is rather a long one, so I ask the reader's patience while an interesting story unfolds.

Despite the fact his family was Oatley, I call him William Oakley because that seems to be the name he was called for most of his life. I have not found a baptism record for him, but he appears with the family in the 1841 census previously mentioned.<sup>136</sup> He is recorded in that census as aged 20 years, although the census rounds ages down to an age that is a multiple of 5 years, so he could be older by up to 4 years. I have two records before the census that I am pretty sure are for him. Both have to do with his March 28, 1836 trial and discharge on a charge of stealing two tame rabbits. The verdict was "Ig" or "insufficient evidence" and the case was dismissed.<sup>165</sup> At the time, William was listed as a labourer age 14 and his name was spelled Oatley. Just as in the trial, there is insufficient evidence to prove the court case concerned the son of James and Harriet Oatley. But, subsequent events will show that this William was very likely their son.

The next record found is an undated convict register in 1843 for William Oakley age 20, occupation mason and his accomplice Launcelot Wells age 30, occupation labourer.<sup>166</sup> They were both admitted to the Ilchester gaol from the Bath gaol. At trial, they were charged with stealing 20 shillings. Both were found guilty and sentenced to transportation. Launcelot was sentenced to 7 years, but William was sentenced to 10 years. Possibly William was the ringleader, or possibly he was disrespectful to the judge. The same prison record showed that William had previously been convicted at Bath and had been sentenced to 4 months and a whipping. I should note that from this point on, the official records all seem to record the name as Oakley.

There is a second register where a large list of people including William and Launcelot are admitted to the Wilton gaol in Taunton on October 16, 1843.<sup>167</sup> The column "Who Committed" just says "adjourned session". Next, there is a register showing William and Launcelot being admitted again to the Wilton jail on October 27, 1843.<sup>168</sup> These registers are confusing, but here is my interpretation. First, they were sent from Bath to Ilchester gaol in preparation for the Quarter Sessions in Wells where their trial was to be held. Then they were taken from Ilchester gaol to Wells for trial. However, the session was adjourned without trying them, so



they were sent to Wilton for holding until the trial resumed. The only problem with this is that the Wilton gaol is in Taunton about 30 miles from Wells, which is a long way to go for temporary holding. I suspect that the session was resumed in Taunton rather than Wells. So a few days later they were taken from Wilton gaol to trial. After being found guilty and sentenced, they were taken back to Wilton gaol and readmitted.

Their readmittal to Wilton was entered in a different register format that included a full description of them. This was the equivalent of modern "mug shots" and fingerprinting. In his description, William is listed as 20 years of age. He is 5 feet 3 inches tall with a fresh complexion, grey eyes, light hair and single. He has a "film" on his right eye, and a blue mark on the 3rd finger of his left hand. He was born in Bath and Bath was also his last residence before going to jail. His occupation is a mason. His age suggests he was born in 1823 which agrees fairly well with the date of James Oatley's son in the 1841 census. He is listed as a mason which is the same occupation as James. It seems clear to me that the convict William Oakley is in fact the son William of James Oatley and Harriet Gillard.

William was sentenced to transportation, but it was to be another 5 years before he was actually transported to a prison colony in Tasmania, Australia. A convict transportation register at Ancestry shows William was taken in 1848 to Van Diemen's Land as Tasmania was then called.<sup>169</sup> According to the register, he was convicted on October 23, 1843 which is right between the dates of his admittance records to Wilton. The register has a cover page showing the name of the ship was Mount Stuart Elphinstone and that it set sail for "VDL" (Van Diemen's Land) on February 2, 1848 with 240 male convicts.

William was convicted in 1843, so in 1848 when he arrived in Tasmania, he had already served half of his sentence, presumably with good behavior. If such was the case, he should soon be eligible for a form of parole. In fact, I found a convict muster from 1849 where William Oakley is listed with a "Ticket of Leave".<sup>170</sup> William not only used the ticket to work outside the prison, but took advantage of the chance to marry the ticket gave. According to the Tasmanina Convict blogger Sue Wyatt.<sup>171</sup>

Female convicts were sent directly to the Female Factory although some did not actually live in the factory, but nearby and came in every day to work. Many also remained only for a day or so as they were sent to work for free settlers, or even convict settlers, and many also married very quickly. The idea was that any man wanting to marry one of the girls would apply. The girls were lined up at the Factory and the man would drop a scarf or handkerchief at the feet of the woman of his choice. If she picked it up, the marriage was virtually immediate.

I am not sure if the permission to marry was in effect at the time of William's ticket, but if not, he must have received specific permission, because there is a civil record of marriage in the Anglican church of St. George in Hobart. The marriage united William Oakley and Bridget



Lambert on October 1, 1849.<sup>172</sup>

Now I will take a bit of time to tell how Bridget Lambert ended up marrying William in Tasmania. Bridget originally came from County Meath in Ireland. Her maiden name was Bridget Gartlany, and her father's name was Patrick. This information is confirmed in the record of her marriage to Mathew Lambert on February 8, 1842 in the Roman Catholic Church at Kells in County Meath.<sup>173</sup> Kells is the site of the Monastery where the famous "Book of Kells" was created.

Bridget and Mathew apparently had two children, and then he left her. He went to America according to an unsourced posting on Ancestry. This seems credible, but I have found no record of the births, of her husband leaving or where he went. The next record I have is of the trial of Bridget Lambert and her brother Patrick Gartlany in the register of the Meath County Gaol at Trim.<sup>174</sup> The pair were admitted to the Gaol on March 21, 1847 and tried on March 29 on a charge of stealing 4 geese, a pair of trousers and a shirt. Bridget was acquitted, perhaps because she had a "Male child 14 Months". Her brother Patrick was convicted and sentenced to 6 months hard labour.

The next record (also from the Trim Gaol) shows Bridget and brother Patrick on trial accused of stealing three pigs on October 21, 1847 in Donore in County Meath.<sup>175</sup> Patrick Gartlany senior, the father of Bridget and her brother, was also charged with receiving the stolen pigs. Patrick senior lived in Drogheda right on the border of Counties Meath and Louth and very close to Donore where the crime was committed. No verdict for any of the accused was mentioned, with the jail record instead referring to another book which I have been unable to locate.

We nevertheless find out the verdict for Bridget from the next stop on her journey. The information is contained in a register from the female prison at Grangegorman in Dublin created soon after she was admitted on February 25, 1848.<sup>176</sup> This prison was just a holding place for women and children before they were transported to Australia. The record gives her name as Bridget "Lambert or Gartlany" and she had been sentenced to 7 years transportation. She was 22 years of age and 4 foot 11 and a half in height. She had grey eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion. I will use this age to calculate a birthdate of about 1825 for her. She was "disposed of", that is put on the convict ship Kinnear, on June 7, 1848. As for her brother and father, they were also convicted and sentenced to 7 years transportation.<sup>177 178</sup>

So, I guess that when William Oakley came to the women's prison factory looking for a wife, he dropped a handkerchief for Bridget that she picked up and they were married. The only problem was that Bridget was already married to Mathew Lambert and although he had left her and possibly gone to America, that wasn't enough. It was impossible for common people to get a divorce in those days. The act covering bigamy in force in England at the time (and presumably in all the colonies) specifically states:<sup>179</sup>



Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend ... to any Person marrying a Second Time, whose Husband or Wife shall have been continually absent from such Person for the Space of Seven Years then last past, and shall not have been known by such Person to be living within that Time

Bridget certainly could not claim her husband Mathew was absent for seven years since two years before, in 1847, she is listed with a "Male child 14 Months", legally the child of her and Mathew.<sup>174</sup> But Bridget avoided the problem completely. She simply told the officials that she was a spinster and that Bridget Lambert was her maiden name. That is exactly how she is listed on the marriage record. Not only that, she continued to give Lambert as her maiden name on the civil birth registrations of her children. Of course, once she was married, she had to keep up the deception. If she had been found out, the penalty for bigamy was an additional sentence of a couple of years. As a result of this deception, many modern family trees list her maiden name as Lambert.

I have found records of four children born to William and Bridget. The children are Harriet Ann born 1850,<sup>180</sup> Eliza born 1852,<sup>181</sup> Susan born 1854,<sup>182</sup> and James born 1857.<sup>183</sup> I only found a church baptism record for Harriet, but I found a civil registration for the other three. The civil registration requires the mother's maiden name. Each civil registration gave the mother's maiden name as Lambert (one was spelled "Lavey" by the clerk). The baptism record for James is slightly inconsistent with his civil registration which gives his name as William and a birth date two days later.<sup>184</sup> The name is probably a confusion with his father's name rather than intentional. The birth records for the children consistently show that the father was working as a stonemason, continuing in the trade of his father James Oatley.

I have found a conditional pardon for William Oakley that was recommended in Hobart on February 11, 1851 taking effect on January 17, 1852.<sup>185</sup> I also found a conditional pardon issued for Bridget Lambert.<sup>186</sup> Her "pardon" is just an entry in a list of convicts given conditional pardons. There is no date on the list, but calculations from time served seem to indicate a recommendation date of March 1852. I suspect the actual pardon was quite a bit later because of the approvals required.

William died of old age on October 16, 1899 in New Norfolk, about 20 miles from Hobart where he was originally imprisoned.<sup>187</sup> Less than two weeks later, his wife Bridget died of heart problems on October 28.<sup>188</sup> They both appear to be living at the same address when they died, which means their marriage seems to have lasted over 50 years. That's pretty good for a marriage that started with a dropped handkerchief and bigamy.



## 4.8. Henry Oatley and Mary Ann Smith

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Henry Oatley	1823	Bath, Somerset	1876	Bath, Somerset
Mary Ann Smith	about 1826	Bath, Somerset	about 1900	Bath, Somerset

There is a parish record for the son of James and Harriet baptised as Henry Oatley on September 17, 1823 at the church of Bathwick St. Mary in Bath.<sup>189</sup> The record also shows the family was living in Villa house and that his father James was a Mason.

Other than his parents' 1841 census already mentioned,<sup>136</sup> the next record I have for Henry is his marriage to Mary Ann Smith on November 23, 1846 at Lyncombe and Widcombe.<sup>190</sup> At the time of the wedding, both bride and groom were of full age of at least 21 and unmarried. Henry and his father James Oatley were both listed as Masons. Mary Ann's father was William Smith, a labourer.

I do not have a baptism or birth record for Mary Ann, but I will use her age on the earliest census I have for her. That is the 1871 census (see below) and it gives an age of 45 which calculates to a birth date of about 1826.

For some reason, I have been unable to find Henry and Mary Ann in the censuses of 1851 and 1861. As we will see, the later censuses show the children were all born in Bath, so they should be there.

Finally, Henry Oatley and family appear in the 1871 census of Lyncombe and Widcombe parish in Bath.<sup>191</sup> He is 47 years old and is a journeyman mason. His wife Mary A[nn] is 45 and the children listed are: Mary A aged 18, Ellen aged 15, Henry F aged 12, William aged 10, James aged 7 and Charles aged 1. Henry is listed as born in Bathwick, and the rest of the family in Bath. In addition to the family, it appears that Mary Ann's mother Harriet Smith, a widow born in Norton, Somerset is living with them.

Henry died about 5 years later and there is a listing on Find a Grave dated March 17, 1876 in St. James cemetery, Bath.<sup>192</sup> Henry's age at death was given as 52 which agrees with the date of his baptism.

As explained in [Section 4.4](#), Mary had a brother in law Thomas Sheppard who had married her husband Henry's sister Harriet Oatley. Harriet died about 3 years after Henry. I guess that Mary Ann and Thomas became close after that and about 4 years after Henry's death, they decided to marry each other.

There is a record of the marriage of Mary Ann Oatley to Thomas Sheppard September 9, 1880



in the parish church of Lyncombe and Widcombe in Bath.<sup>193</sup> Mary Ann is 55 and a widow living in the Waterloo Buildings. Her father was William Smith deceased, a carpenter (upgraded from labourer shown in her previous marriage). Thomas is 61, a widower and a gentleman which probably means retired, and living on his own savings. He is living in Bridge House. His father was William Sheppard deceased, gentleman.

Thomas and Mary Ann appear living by themselves in the 1881 census of Lyncombe and Widcombe.<sup>194</sup> In that census, Thomas is 61 years old and a retired contractor, born in Trowbridge, Wiltshire about 10 miles from Bath. Mary Ann is 55 and born in Bath. It appears they agreed that Mary Ann's children would not live with them. So, for example, we find Mary Ann's youngest son Charles Oatley, who is only 11, living with a married sister in Wotton St. Mary, Gloucestershire when the 1881 census was taken.<sup>195</sup>

Thomas died only a year after the marriage. He must have died without a will, because there is a record of his widow Mary Ann being named administrator of his estate.<sup>196</sup> The record says Thomas died on October 14, 1881 at the Dolemeads, an area in the city of Bath. The value of his estate was given as over £2,000 sterling. Depending on how you do the comparison, this amount would probably make him comparable to a millionaire today. There is a record of Thomas' grave at St. James cemetery in Bath dated October 17, 1881.<sup>199</sup> Thomas' age at death was given as 62. He is buried in the same plot as his first wife Harriet, probably because of an agreement with his second wife that each would be buried with their first spouse.

The 1891 census shows Mary Ann Sheppard living in Lyncombe and Widcombe parish in Bath.<sup>197</sup> She is a widow aged 65 living on her own means. In other words, Thomas had provided very well for her. Her youngest son Charles Oatley was living with her. He was now 21 and working as a smith's (probably a blacksmith's) helper. I assume that Charles had moved back to his mother's home after the death of her husband Thomas and had lived there ever since.

Mary Ann lived almost twenty years after the death of her second husband. When she did die, she was buried in the same plot as her first husband at St. James cemetery. That fact is shown by her record on Find a Grave dated May 11, 1900 and giving her age as 74.<sup>198</sup>

## 4.9. Charles Oatley and Sarah Reese

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Charles Oatley	1827	Bath, Somerset	1867	Bath, Somerset
Sarah Reese	about 1827	Keynsham, Somerset	possibly 1875	Bath, Somerset

There is a baptism record for Charles Oatley with parents James and Harriet at Bathwick St.



Mary parish in Bath on February 7, 1827.<sup>199</sup> His father James is listed as a mason which confirms it is the correct family. When I found this record at Ancestry, it was mistranscribed as "Charles Valley", but I clearly read the surname as Oatley.

In the next record I have for Charles Oatley, he appears as a 12 year old in the 1841 census for his parents James and Harriet.<sup>136</sup> The next record is his marriage to Sarah Reece on February 4, 1849 in Bath at the parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe.<sup>200</sup> On his marriage record, Charles is listed as a mason, and his father's name is given as James also a mason. These details confirm that this is the right Charles.

The couple appear in the 1851 census, but with no children yet.<sup>201</sup> Charles is age 23 and a journeyman mason. Sarah is 24 and has no occupation. They are both living in the parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe. Since this is the earliest record of Sarah's age that I have, I will use it to estimate a birth date of about 1827.

In the next census in 1861, the family has grown considerably.<sup>202</sup> Charles is now 33 and still a mason and listed with a surname spelling of Otley. His wife Sarah is now 36. They are still living in the parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe. They now have 4 children Edwin aged 10, James aged 7, William aged 5 and Charles aged 2.

Charles senior died in 1867 and was buried on June 23 having died at the age of 38.<sup>203</sup> He was buried in St. James cemetery in the same plot as his father James Oatley who had died two years earlier.<sup>139</sup> A few years later in 1876, his mother Harriet would also be buried in the same plot.<sup>141</sup>

So in the 1871 census, Charles' wife is listed as a widow.<sup>204</sup> Sarah is now 45 years old, but living in the same parish and now employed as a nurse. She has three sons living with her: Edwin aged 19 and working as a mason, James age 17 and working as a baker and William aged 15 and working as a carter. Son Charles who appeared with the family in 1861 is shown in 1871 living with his aunt Harriet Oakley and her husband Thomas Sheppard.<sup>205</sup> Charles is 12 years old and working for his uncle Thomas who is a publican or tavern keeper.

I cannot identify Sarah Oatley in the 1881 census. She may have died. There is a Sarah Oatley who died in 1875 at the age of 56 and was buried on May 18 in St. James Cemetery in Bath.<sup>206</sup> That is the same cemetery where James Oatley and his parents were buried. However, the burial was not in the same plot as James, possibly because there was no room after the burial of his mother. The only problem with the Sarah buried in 1875 is that she is at 56, about 6 or 7 years too old. She appears in the GRO index with the same age, but I have not purchased the death registration.<sup>207</sup> I have been unable to find any other suitable candidate in the civil death registry indexes.

There is one other possibility though. Three of Sarah's sons were married and moved to Lambeth, a parish in London, by the time of the 1881 census.<sup>208 209 210</sup> This leaves the possibility



that Sarah moved to Lambeth herself. In fact there is a Sarah Oakley who is the right age and a widow in the 1881 census.<sup>211</sup> This Sarah is a domestic servant living in the household of John Dawson in St. Marylebone about 5 miles from Lambeth. The only contrary item in the census is that this Sarah was born in Bruton, Somerset. Bruton is about 25 miles away from Keynsham which is listed as the birthplace of Charles' wife in the censuses in Bath. I have not tried to track the Bruton Sarah Oatley further.

All things considered, I think it most likely Charles' wife is the Sarah who died in Bath in 1875, but I cannot be certain.

## 4.10. Eliza Oatley and Joseph Elley

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Eliza Oatley	about 1826	Bath, Somerset	1872	Bath, Somerset
Joseph Elley	about 1826	Bath, Somerset	about 1860	unknown

I have no record of Eliza's birth or baptism, but I am pretty sure she is the daughter of James and Harriet because of her marriage record. That record shows the marriage of Eliza Oatley to Joseph Elley on November 22, 1847 at Charlcombe, Somerset.<sup>212</sup> Charlcombe is a suburb of Bath about 2 miles from its centre. The bride and groom are both of full age (21 years), both unmarried and both residing in Charlcombe. Joseph's father is William Elley, a chairman (probably a maker of wooden chairs). Eliza's father is James Oatley, a mason. Joseph signs the register and Eliza makes her mark.

Eliza and Joseph next appear in the 1851 census Lyncombe and Widcome parish in Bath.<sup>213</sup> Joseph is listed as a Mason's labourer aged 25 and born in Charlcombe. Eliza is 23 and born in Bath. They have two children, both born in Bath, Louisa age 3 and Charles age 2. It appears that Joseph Elley died before the 1861 census, but I can find no record of it. The 1851 census is the only record with Joseph's age, so I will estimate his birth date as about 1826.

In the 1861 census, Eliza Elley appears without Joseph in the same parish as 10 years earlier.<sup>214</sup> She is listed as 35 years old, a widow, and works as a charwoman. She now has four children: Louisa age 12, Frederick age 9, Ann age 4, and Joseph age 2. From the ages, it appears that her husband died within the last couple of years. Everyone in the family is listed as born in Widcombe parish of Bath. The age in this census makes it appear that Eliza was about the same age as Joseph, so I will estimate her birth date as about 1826 too.

I have not found Eliza in the 1871 census, but Find a Grave shows a grave for her in Bath St. James cemetery.<sup>215</sup> The entry is dated December 22, 1872 and her age is given as 47 years which reasonably agrees with a birth date of 1826.



## 4.11. Frederick Oatley and Harriet unknown

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Frederick Oatley	1828	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown
Harriet unknown	about 1829	Bath, somerset	unknown	unknown

James and Harriet had a son baptised as Frederick Oatley on November 30, 1828 at the church of Bathwick St. Mary in Bath.<sup>216</sup> James' trade was mason, and the family were living in Villa House.

Frederick appears living with his parents in the 1841 and 1851 censuses previously mentioned.<sup>136 137</sup> In 1851, Frederick is 20 years old and a journeyman Mason like his father James.

In the 1861 census, Frederick Oakley is living with a wife Harriet but no children in Walcot St. Swithin parish in Bath.<sup>217</sup> Frederick is 31 and his trade is mason which agrees quite closely with the previous census. His wife Harriet is 30. Both are born in Bath. I have been unable to find a marriage record for Frederick and Harriet either in church records or in civil records. I have been unable to find any other record of Harriet's age, so I will estimate her birth as 1829 since she is listed as one year younger than her husband who was born in 1828.

I have been unable to identify either Frederick or his wife Harriet in later censuses. I have not been able to find death or burial records for them either. They may have both died of a disease like cholera and been hastily buried without being recorded. Alternatively, they may have emigrated to one of the British colonies, or to America. In any case, I have been unable to track them further.

## 4.12. Louisa Oatley

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Louisa Oatley	1831	Bath, Somerset	1910	Bath, Somerset

Louisa Oatley was baptised at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath on March 20, 1831.<sup>218</sup> Her parents were James and Harriet and the family were living at number 7 Morford Street. James' occupation was given as a labourer. Perhaps he was temporarily out of mason jobs and was filling in as a labourer.

As previously discussed, Louisa was living at home with her family when the censuses of 1841, 1851 and 1861 were taken.<sup>136 137 138</sup> She was listed as age 9 in 1841 and age 19 in 1851. In 1861



she was age 30 and working as a laundress.

I cannot find her in 1871, but she seems to reappear in the 1881 census in the parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe in Bath.<sup>219</sup> She is still a laundress as in previous censuses and still born in Bath. But she is 10 years younger with an age of 40. She is listed as a widow and has her son John, age 17 living with her. This John seems to be the same John who was living with Louisa's mother Harriet in 1871 and was listed as her grandson aged 7.<sup>140</sup> There is a birth listed in the GRO index that seems to be for this boy John in 1863.<sup>220</sup> The index lists no maiden surname for John's mother, as they seem to do for illegitimate births because the maiden surname of the mother is the same as the child. From these circumstances, I conclude that Louisa was unwed when she had John in 1863 and she is lying about being a widow in 1881 to cover up that fact.

I can't find Louisa in the 1891 census, but she seems to be back in the 1901 census of Widcombe St. Thomas a Becket parish in Bath.<sup>221</sup> Her son has left home and she is alone. She is a laundress born in Bath. Her age at 67 is much closer to her real age which would be about 70. She is no longer listed as a widow, but as single instead.

There is a listing for her grave dated November 2, 1910 In Bath St. James cemetery.<sup>222</sup> Her age at death is given as 75 which is about 4 years younger than her real age. She must have been a very hard working woman who didn't have much luck with men.

## 4.13. Edwin Oatley

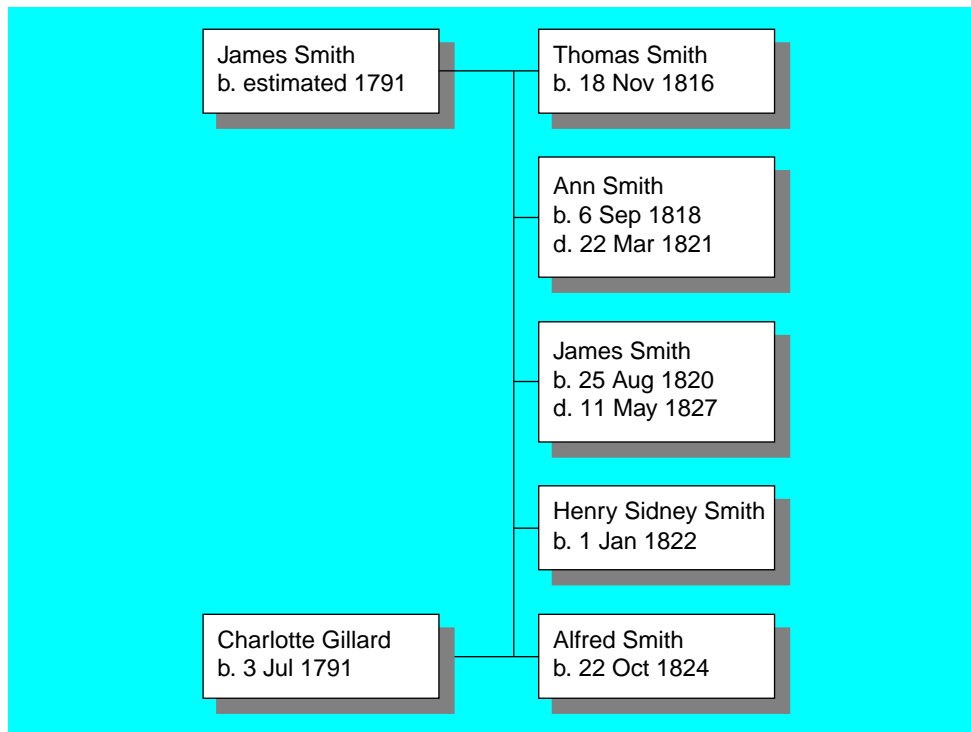
Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Edwin Oatley	1833	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

The baptism of Edwin Oatley, son of James and Harriet, took place on January 18, 1833 at the church of Bathwick St. Mary in Bath.<sup>223</sup> The family at the time were living in Villa House and James is listed as a Mason.

Edwin was 7 years old when he appeared in the family census in 1841.<sup>136</sup> But by the 1851 census when he would have been 17, he does not appear. At that age, he could have been living elsewhere working as an apprentice or servant. I have not been able to identify him in the 1851 census in any other location. I cannot find a death or burial record for him either. I do not know what happened to him.



## 5. Charlotte Gillard and James Smith



Family Tree 8. Family of Charlotte Gillard and James Smith

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Charlotte Gillard	1791	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown
James Smith	estimated 1791	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

I have a baptism record for a Charlotte Guillert on July 3, 1791 at the church of Bath St. Michael.<sup>224</sup> It is a little different from the other children of Robert Gillard and Susanna Quick. The spelling is Guillert instead of Gillard and this is the only record I have found for the family at this church. The church is less than a mile from the churches of Bath St. James and Walcot St. Swithin where other family baptisms occurred. The names of the parents are Robert and Susanna. There is no Guillert (or similar) with those parent names in that period in the Ancestry baptism registry for Somerset. Overall, I am reasonably satisfied that Charlotte is part of this family.

On December 4, 1815, Charlotte married James Smith at Bath Abbey Church.<sup>225</sup> Bath Abbey was closely connected to Bath St. James, and the two are less than a half mile apart. Both Charlotte and James are apparently able to sign their names to the register. One witness is Robert Gillard, no doubt Charlotte's older brother.

As we will see when looking at the baptisms of the children of Charlotte and James, his occupation was a cooper. A cooper is a maker of wooden barrels. James would have had to apprentice for this trade. I have no record showing James' birth or baptism, so I am estimating



it to be the same as Charlotte's. This would mean they were both about 24 when they married. If my estimate is correct, James would likely have married 3 years after completion of his apprenticeship.

I have been unable to identify Charlotte and James Smith in any censuses, nor have I found death records for them. There are people with those names, even some about the right age, but the names are too common to make an identification on name alone. I can trace the family in Bath until about 1824 using the baptisms below, but that is about it.

All the following children were found in baptismal records of Bath St. James with parent names of Charlotte and James Smith. Although Smith is a very common name, these records seem consistent as a group and there are no other parents with those names in that time period.

## 5.1. Thomas Smith

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Thomas Smith	1816	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

The first baptism is for a son Thomas Smith on November 18, 1816.<sup>226</sup> The family are living on Bridewell Lane in Bath. The father James' trade is cooper.

I think I have found Thomas living by himself in the 1841 census.<sup>227</sup> He is in the Bath Abbey enumeration district, but he is living on St. James Parade, so he was actually closer to the church of Bath St. James than to Bath Abbey. Thomas is listed as age 20 which exactly agrees with his baptismal age (24) rounded down to a multiple of 5 years which was the practice on the 1841 census. His occupation is apprentice Carver and Gilder, meaning that he was learning to make high end decorative and gilded woodwork. He was, of course, single which would be expected of an apprentice. Tradesmen like his father James usually made an effort to get their sons into a good apprenticeship if they did not train them themselves. Most of the details in the census seem to be consistent with it but the surname Smith is so common that I cannot be sure he is the son of James and Charlotte.

I have searched for Thomas in later censuses and have not found a Thomas Smith from Bath who is a Carver and Gilder, nor anyone else who I can identify with this family. There are candidates, but I just can't find the evidence of a connection. Of course, the surname gives a lot of candidates, but no help in identification. Basically the same goes for finding a marriage or death record for Thomas.



## 5.2. Ann Smith

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Ann Smith	1818	Bath, Somerset	1821	Bath, Somerset

There is a record of the baptism of Ann Smith at Bath St. James on September 6, 1818.<sup>228</sup> The family is now living on Hot Bath Street and the father is still a cooper.

Unfortunately, Ann seems to have died before age 3. That is how I interpret the burial record for a Nancy Smith on March 22, 1821.<sup>229</sup> The child was listed as 2 years and 9 months old at the time of her death. The death occurred 2 years, 6 months and 16 days after the baptism, so it would exactly agree with Ann if she were about 2 and a half months old when she was baptised. Also the abode of Nancy is given as Corn Street. On the baptism of Ann's brother James,<sup>230</sup> the family is living on Corn Street about 7 months before the burial. The details of Nancy and Ann are so similar that I am convinced they are the same person. Perhaps Ann had a nickname of Nancy or Nan and that led to the burial name.

## 5.3. James Smith

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
James Smith	1820	Bath, Somerset	1827	Bath, Somerset

As previously mentioned, James and Charlotte had a son James Smith who was baptised on August 25, 1820 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>230</sup>

James died at age 7 years and was buried on May 11, 1827 at Bath.<sup>231</sup> A single register was used for Bath Abbey and Bath St. James, so it is unclear exactly where he was buried. The family were living on Peter Street in 1827.

## 5.4. Henry Sidney Smith

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Henry Sidney Smith	1822	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

There is a record of a baptism for another son Henry Sidney Smith on January 11, 1822 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>232</sup> The middle name is incorrectly transcribed by Ancestry, but I clearly read it as Sidney. The family are now on Peter Street and father James is still a cooper.



I can find no further records for Henry that I can identify, because the Smith surname makes it difficult.

## 5.5. Alfred Smith

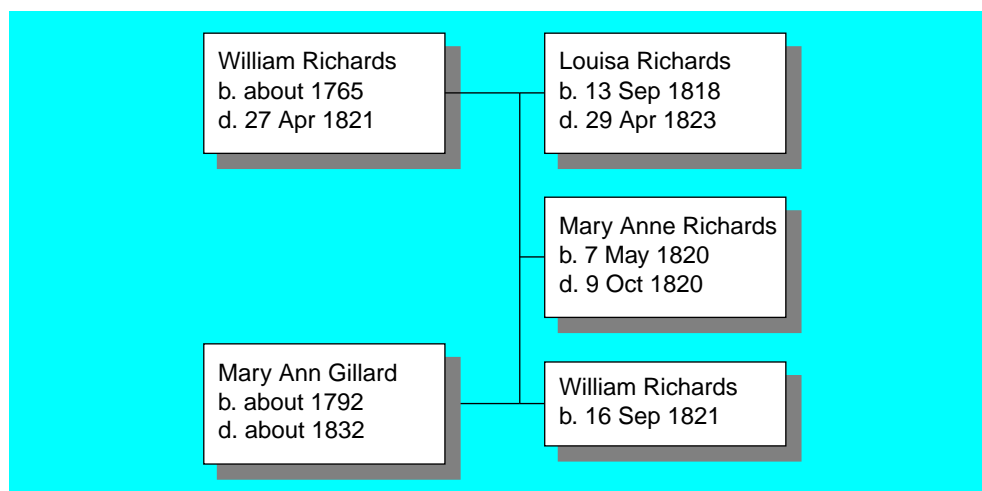
Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Alfred Smith	1824	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

The last child of Charlotte and James that I have found is Alfred Smith baptised at Bath St. James on October 22 1824.<sup>233</sup> The family are back on Corn Street, and father James is only a labourer. James must have been working for someone else and been laid off or fired. Hopefully the change was not permanent.

As with his older brother Henry, I can find no further records for Alfred that I can identify, for similar reasons.



## 6. Mary Ann Gillard and First Husband William Richards



*Family Tree 9. Family of Mary Ann Gillard and William Richards*

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Mary Ann Gillard	about 1792	Bath, Somerset	about 1832	England
William Richards	about 1765	Willand, Devonshire	1821	Bath, Somerset

I have not found a baptism record for Mary Ann Gillard, but I have found two relating to her marriage. The first is a marriage bond dated June 9, 1813 for 200 pounds made by William Richards, bachelor and yeoman, of the parish of Willand in Devonshire.<sup>234</sup> A marriage bond is essentially a promise to marry and a guarantee that such marriage would be legal. The bond was required for any marriage by license without posting banns in church. The bond stated that William would marry Mary Ann Gillard of the city of Bath, a spinster. The second is the actual record of the marriage which took place on the same day at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>235</sup> One of the witnesses to the marriage is Robert Gillard, no doubt the older brother of Mary Ann. Mary Ann signed with a mark, so she couldn't write, but William signed with a good hand. Both parties appear to be of age (that is 21) since there were no paternal consents added to the bond. Since this is the only clue I have to Mary Ann's age, I will estimate her birthdate to be about 1792.

I should note that the groom's place of residence Willand is under 7 miles from Tiverton which is the area that Mary Ann's parents are from. Since Willand is over 60 miles from Mary Ann's home in Bath, in normal circumstances it would be unusual for the couple to meet. This suggests that the couple met through family connections, or even that the marriage was arranged by the parents.



As noted on the marriage bond William was a yeoman in Devonshire before they were wed. Afterwards he moved to the city and became a labourer. All the baptism records of his children that I have (see below) show him as a labourer in Walcot parish of Bath. I have no baptism record for William, but I do have a record of his funeral on April 27, 1821 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin.<sup>236</sup> His age is given as 56 which allows me to calculate a birth in about 1765 presumably in Willand parish of Devonshire. This indicates that William was about 27 years older than Mary Ann.

The following paragraphs discuss the Richards children of Mary Ann and William that were found in the parish records with those names as parents. After that, Mary Ann's second family will be discussed in [Section 7](#).

## 6.1. Louisa Richards

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Louisa Richards	1818	Bath, Somerset	1823	Bath, Somerset

Louisa Richards was baptised on September 13, 1818 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath.<sup>237</sup> The family were living on Avon Street which mostly runs right along the Avon River. Richard was working as a labourer.

Unfortunately Louisa died when she was only 5. I have found the record of the funeral on April 29, 1823 again at Walcot St. Swithin parish.<sup>238</sup> By the time of the death, the family had moved to Wine Street.

## 6.2. Mary Anne Richards

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Mary Anne Richards	1820	Bath, Somerset	1820	Bath, Somerset

There was a baptism for daughter Mary Anne at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath on May 7, 1820.<sup>239</sup> The family are still on Avon Street and the father is employed as a labourer.

Mary Anne lasted less than a year and her funeral was on October 9, 1820 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin.<sup>240</sup> The family was living on Peter Street at the time.



## 6.3. William Richards

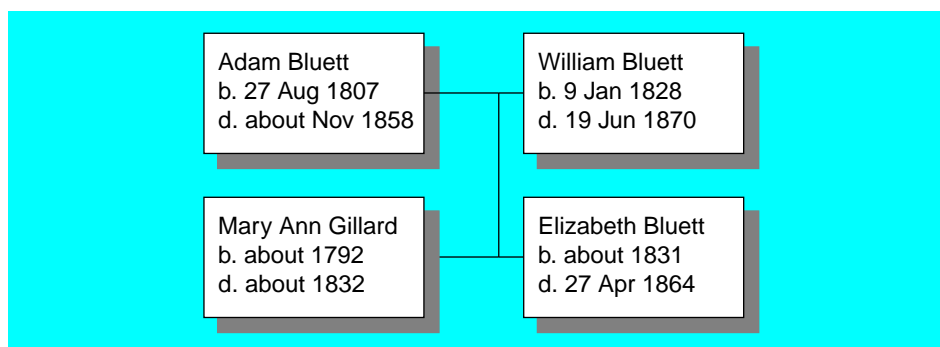
Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
William Richards	1821	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

William Richards was the last child born to Mary Ann and William. He was baptised in the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath on September 16, 1821.<sup>241</sup> The baptism was almost 5 months after the death of the father William, so it must have been a very trying time for Mary Ann who had to support the family during the last half of her pregnancy. Hopefully she had some help from her siblings or other family.

I have tried to track down further records on William with no luck. There doesn't seem to be an early burial for him. As we shall see, by the time of the next census in 1841 his mother had remarried, moved to London and died. Also William's stepfather Adam Bluett had remarried and William was not living with him for the census. If William had not died in the meantime, he had probably moved in with some of his blood relatives or even taken an apprenticeship somewhere. Unfortunately, I do not have enough information at present to sort this all out.



## 7. Mary Ann Gillard and Second Husband Adam Bluett



Family Tree 10. Family of Mary Ann Gillard and Second Husband Adam Bluett

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Mary Ann Gillard	about 1792	Bath, Somerset	about 1832	England
Adam Bluett	1807	Bristol, Gloucester	1858	St. Giles, London

After 4 years of supporting her family as a widow, Mary Ann Richards (nee Gillard) married again. Her marriage to Adam Bluett, a bachelor, was celebrated at Bath St. James on December 19, 1825.<sup>242</sup> Both Mary Ann and Adam signed the register with their mark. The marriage was witnessed by William Gillard, presumably Mary Ann's younger brother. William was a competent writer. It is interesting to note that Mary Ann was about 15 years older than Adam according to my research. This is quite a contrast to her first marriage when she was much younger than her husband.

I do have a baptism record for Adam Bluett. The ceremony took place in the church of St. Stephen in Bristol two days after Christmas on December 27, 1807.<sup>243</sup> It was noted on the register that he was born four months before on August 27, 1807. His parents were listed as William and Elizabeth Bluett. I have to say that Adam is reasonably easy to trace because he has such an unusual name. That is good for me because Adam is very careless about recording his age and place of birth on records and he usually says he was born at the place where the information was recorded.

Mary Ann and Adam had a child William baptised in 1828 in Bath St. James,<sup>244</sup> so they spent some years in Bath. Then the history gets a little hazy. They had a daughter Elizabeth about 2 years later apparently born in London, so they must have moved sometime in the interval. Sometime after that Mary Ann apparently died but I have found no record of it. The following shows that Adam remarried in 1835, so presumably his first wife Mary Ann died between 1830 and 1835. For the family tree in this book, I am estimating a death date of about 1832 with no location specified other than England.



The next family record I have is the second marriage of Adam Bluett. He married Catherine Haynes on September 21, 1835 at the church of St. Anne in Soho, London.<sup>245</sup> Both parties were "of the parish of St. Annes". Unlike his previous marriage, Adam signed on his own while Catherine made her mark. The witnesses were Martha Haynes and Ann Hynes[sic].

Adam and Catherine appear in the 1841 census in St. Marylebone, London.<sup>246</sup> Both are listed as 30 years old (bearing in mind the age is rounded down to a multiple of 5 years). The children with them are William age 12 and "Betsy" (Elizabeth) age 10. According to the census, they were all born in Middlesex county where London is located. Adam's occupation is given as a blacksmith, and none is given for Catharine.

An interesting record concerning the family occurs in 1843.<sup>247</sup> The whole family are admitted to the workhouse in St. Marylebone, London on February 15, 1843. They are listed as Adam age 38, Catharine age 39, William age 9 and Elizabeth age 8. The children are those of Adam and Mary Ann. They only stay for 3 days and are released. Entry to a workhouse was voluntary so I don't know why they admitted themselves. Maybe Adam and Catharine were out of work or sick and they were starving or maybe they had no money to pay their rent.

Since their stay was short-term, they would probably have been admitted to the "casual ward". Wikipedia has this to say about such a stay.<sup>248</sup>

Conditions in the casual wards were worse than in the relieving rooms, and deliberately designed to discourage vagrants, who were considered potential troublemakers and probably disease-ridden. Vagrants who presented themselves at the door of a workhouse were at the mercy of the porter, whose decision it was whether or not to allocate them a bed for the night in the casual ward. Those refused entry risked being sentenced to two weeks of hard labour if they were found begging or sleeping in the open and prosecuted for an offence under the Vagrancy Act 1824.

A typical early 19th-century casual ward was a single large room furnished with some kind of bedding and perhaps a bucket in the middle of the floor for sanitation. The bedding on offer could be very basic: the Poor Law authorities in Richmond in London in the mid-1840s provided only straw and rags, although beds were available for the sick. In return for their night's accommodation vagrants might be expected to undertake a certain amount of work before leaving the next day; for instance at Guisborough men were required to break stones for three hours and women to pick oakum, two hours before breakfast and one after.

Adam and Catherine next appear in court on August 6, 1849 in the Wiltshire County Assizes.<sup>249</sup> They are both charged with "Uttering Counterfeit Coin". They are found guilty and sentenced to a year in prison. Their children were old enough to take care of themselves (William would have been about 19 and Elizabeth 17). I don't know why they were passing counterfeit coins in



Wiltshire which is something like 90 miles from London (although only a few miles from Bath).

The 1851 census shows Adam and Catherine are out of jail, although the children are no longer with them.<sup>250</sup> Adam's age is 42 and his birthplace is Marylebone in London. Catharine's age is 35 and her birthplace is Westminster, also in London. Adam's occupation is listed as a locksmith which is consistent with the blacksmith listed in 1841. In those days, locksmiths had to build locks out of metal using blacksmithing methods. There is one discrepancy in the census I should mention. Adam is listed as married, but Catherine is listed as single and a lodger of Adam. Her age also is about 5 years older than she was in 1841. In my experience these discrepancies are within the normal range for census enumerators.

Adam's death is listed in the GRO index for October to December 1858 under the name Blewitt.<sup>251</sup> The death was registered in the district of St. Giles and St. George in London. His age is given as 50 which agrees quite well with his baptism date of 1807. I have also found a burial record for Adam Bluett on December 27, 1858.<sup>252</sup> It must be the same person because the name is so unusual, but the burial gives an age of 59 (rather than his actual age of 51) which is not surprising considering the age variations with this family. Another interesting detail from the burial is that he was living in the St. Giles workhouse when he died.

I have been unable to find Adam's wife Catherine in the following censuses of 1861 and 1871. I have found a Catherine Maria Bluett listed in the GRO death index for April to June 1880.<sup>253</sup> At 70, her age is consistent with the age of Adam's wife in the 1841 Census, but as I said a bit off from the 1851 census. The death was registered in Westminster, the same place as Adam was living in 1851. The middle name Maria has not appeared before, but middle names are commonly omitted in censuses.

All the known children of Adam Bluett are also the children of Mary Ann Gillard. I will now go through the information that I have on those children.

## 7.1. William Bluett and Mary Ann Davey and Sarah Cheer

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
William Bluett	1828	Bath, Somerset	1870	Hackney, London
Mary Ann Davey	about 1832	London	1855	Marylebone, London
Sarah Cheer	about 1835	Ashford, Kent	unknown	unknown

William Bluett, son of Mary Ann and Adam was baptised on January 9, 1828 in the church of Bath St. James.<sup>244</sup> His name was actually spelled Bluatt, but he is clearly the child of this family. At the time, the family was living on Peter Street in Bath. Adam's occupation is listed as a



locksmith.

William aged 12 appears with his father in St. Marylebone in London on the 1841 census.<sup>246</sup> He appears without his father on the 1851 census of Westminster in London.<sup>254</sup> The William in the census is pretty clearly the son of Mary Ann and Adam, mainly because of his occupation which is locksmith, the same as that of his father. His age at 21 years is about right, and his birthplace of Bath is also correct. He does have a middle initial that we have not seen before William C Bluett. He is lodging with John Saller, who is also a locksmith and a retired soldier. Judging by his age, John may have fought in the Napoleonic wars, perhaps even at Waterloo. William probably works for John, although he probably learned the locksmith trade from his father Adam.

William Bluett married Mary Ann Davey in the church of St. Martin in the Fields, one of the most famous and historic churches in London. The marriage was celebrated on March 21, 1852.<sup>255</sup> The groom was listed as a bachelor and locksmith and his father Adam as a smith, a term that covers a number of different types of metal worker. Mary Ann was a spinster and her father was William Davey, a soldier. I can't help but wonder if they met because the bride's father was a friend of the groom's employer who was a retired soldier.

There is an entry in the civil death index for a Mary Ann Blewitt aged 23 registered in January to March 1855 in Marylebone, London.<sup>256</sup> This is pretty clearly the wife of our William Bluett, and it gives me a chance to estimate her birthdate as about 1832.

The next census in 1861 shows William with a new wife Sarah living in Westminster St. James, a parish in London.<sup>257</sup> The family show two children not seen before, William aged 7 years and Louisa aged 6 months. William's age is 33 years and his birthplace is Bath. Sarah's age is 26 years born in Ashford in Kent. Her age gives her a birthdate of about 1835. The children are born in St. James, London. William's occupation is listed as a "Bellhanger". This probably did not mean that William put bells into churches, more likely he installed servant "call bells" in upscale homes. The installation of such bells was a complex mechanical process as was lockmaking, and locksmiths were often bellhangers as well.

I have found no record of the marriage of William and Sarah. I was however able to determine Sarah's maiden name from the GRO index for the birth of Louisa in 1860.<sup>258</sup> The birth was registered in the period of October to December 1860 and the mother's maiden name was given as "Cheer".

William died in 1870 and I have found a record of the burial in Hackney, London on June 19, 1870.<sup>259</sup> William was apparently living at 49 Carnaby Street in Soho, London. This is the famous street of "Swinging London" that appeared on the cover of Time magazine a century later in April 1966. Also, Soho is the same place as where William's parents were married.

The next year Sarah and the children appear in the 1871 census of St. Marylebone.<sup>260</sup> Sarah is



now 36 years old and working as a Laundress. Son William is now 17 and no occupation is listed, although he may still be in school. Louisa is now 10 and a scholar. There is also a new son Thomas aged 7 who must have been born about 1864. Thomas is also a scholar. All the children are listed as born in Soho which is pretty well equivalent to St. James listed in 1861. However, the mother Sarah has a birthplace that seems to read "Sunbury".

I do not intend to go into further details of the children's lives, but I have tried to follow that of their mother Sarah. I have found no recognizable record of her in later censuses, or in the civil death records. I have also looked for another marriage for her without result.

## 7.2. Elizabeth Bluett and William Chalkwright

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Elizabeth Bluett	about 1831	Westminster, London	1864	Hackney, London
William Chalkwright	about 1831	Westminster, London	1904	Westminster, London

I do not have a baptism record for Elizabeth, but she appears in the 1841 census with her father Adam Bluett and family.<sup>246</sup> She is listed as "Betsey" aged 10 and born in London, and hence was born in about 1831.

I cannot recognize Elizabeth Bluett in the 1851 census, but I have found her marriage. On November 29, 1859 Elizabeth Bluett and William Chalkwright were married at the church of St. Luke, Berwick Street, London.<sup>261</sup> William was a bachelor working as a porter and his father, also William, was a carpenter. Elizabeth was a spinster and her father was Adam Bluett, a whitesmith. A whitesmith is another type of metalworker that is often associated with locksmith or bellhanger work. Both the bride and groom signed the register with their mark. Both gave their residence as 22 Peter Street (in London, not Bath).

Elizabeth and William (shortened to Wm) appear with their family in the 1861 census of Westminster St. James in London.<sup>262</sup> William is 30 years old, now works as a painter, and was born in St. James. Elizabeth is 31, and was born in Westminster (London). The children are William aged 5, Emma aged 4, and Thomas aged 2. The children were all born in Westminster.

There is a burial for Elizabeth Chalkwright (nee Bluett) on April 27, 1864 in Hackney, London.<sup>263</sup>

William married again to another Elizabeth shortly afterwards. On June 24, 1866 he wedded Elizabeth Emma Moulden at St. James, Westminster in London.<sup>264</sup> William's name is spelled Chalkright (without the "w") and he is listed as a widower and a painter. His father is William Chalkright, carpenter. Elizabeth is a spinster and her father is John Moulden, a custom house



officer. William signs with his mark, but Elizabeth manages a scratchy signature. Both the bride and groom are living on Peter Street at the time of the marriage.

In the next census in 1871, the family show up again in the same parish.<sup>265</sup> William is 41 years old and still a painter. Elizabeth is 32, 9 years younger than her husband. The children from the previous marriage are William 16 who is now a jeweller (probably an apprentice) and Thomas 12 still in school. There are some new children, John 4 and Annie 1. The whole family is listed with a birthplace of Westminster, London, except Elizabeth who was born in Shepherds Bush also in London.

Things have changed quite a bit by the time of the 1881 census. It looks like William and Elizabeth have split up, although I can't say for sure. In any case William is in St. James, London living with a Jane Brown, a widow who is listed as his mother.<sup>266</sup> The problem is that Jane is listed as 48 years old while William is 50. I think it very unlikely that Jane is his mother. William and Jane are probably a couple, but did not want to say so to the enumerator. After all, this was Victorian Britain and any such liaison would be frowned on and it is even possible they could be arrested.

William's wife Elizabeth appears in the same 1881 census quite close by in St. Pancras.<sup>267</sup> She is listed as unmarried, age 42 and a charwoman. She is living in the household of Henry Saunders. Henry is married, age 40 and has a son John aged 13 who is an errand boy. Elizabeth has her children with her: John E age 14, Frederick age 10 and Albert age 4. Elizabeth and family are listed as "No Relation" to John Saunders, although this would only mean no close relation. There is one other person listed in the household, Alfred Morrison who is a "Boarder". This hints that John Saunders may be running a small boarding house. It looks like Elizabeth left her husband and is either living with some acquaintance or family, or paying rent.

If in fact the family did break up, the stress may have been too much for Elizabeth. About a year after the census, there is a record of her death aged 43 in the period April to June 1882 in the GRO index.<sup>268</sup> The index gives no details of the cause of death or who reported the death. Those details are available from the GRO, but I have not purchased a copy of the full record.

Well, whatever happened with Elizabeth does not seem to have put William off marriage. On July 14, 1889 William married his third wife Jane Usher at St. Anne's, Westminster.<sup>269</sup> The most notable thing about the marriage is the age difference. William's age is given as 55 and Jane's as 35 a difference of 20 years. But that's not the whole story, William has understated his age by 5 years according to the previous censuses. William must have lied about his age to Jane because it is maintained in subsequent censuses. William has a new occupation of upholsterer. Also William lists himself as a bachelor, rather than a widower. All these discrepancies made me think that this was a different William at first. However, as we shall see, subsequent censuses confirm that this is the correct William.



The first example of that confirmation comes in the 1891 census of Westminster St. James showing William, Jane, and their family.<sup>270</sup> William is 56 years old (in reality about 60) and is employed as an upholsterer and he is born in St. James London. Jane is only 39 years old and is born in Bloomsbury. The children from William's previous marriage are Annie C. aged 21 and employed as a domestic servant and Albert E. aged 13 going to school. The new child, presumably Jane's, is Florence S. aged 1.

On the next census of 1901, we find the family still in Westminster.<sup>271</sup> William is now aged 66 (in reality about 71) and Jane aged 40. There is a son from William's previous marriage to Elizabeth Moulden, Albert E. aged 24. There are two new children, presumably Jane's, Florence aged 11 and Ernest 9. William is now listed as a porter which was his original occupation back in 1859 at the time of his first marriage. The whole family is listed as born in Westminster St. James.

There is a record in the GRO index for William's death in the period October to December 1904 in Westminster.<sup>272</sup> The index gives William's age at death as 74 which is his true age as far as I know. I attribute this to the custom of the oldest son present handling the death arrangements. If Jane had registered the death, it probably would have been with an age 5 years younger, but son Albert probably knew his correct age.

In the next census of 1911, Jane is living with her children still in Westminster.<sup>273</sup> Jane is 57 and a widow. The children are Albert aged 32, Florence aged 21 and Ernest aged 19. Albert was a porter at a music plate maker. I am guessing that he was a delivery man for an early maker of phonograph records. Florence was a tailoress and Ernest was a porter and packer.

We come to the end of my story of the complete family of Elizabeth Chalkwright (nee Bluett) with the death of her husband's third wife Jane in 1933 still in Westminster.<sup>274</sup> Jane's age at death was given as 82.



## 8. Richard Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Richard Gillard	1788	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown
Richard Gillard	1793	Bath, Somerset	1793	Bath, Somerset
Richard Gillard	1794	Bath, Somerset	1796	Bath, Somerset

We now come to the story of Richard Gillard which does not have a happy ending. The first child of that name was baptised on August 31, 1788 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath.<sup>8</sup> The parents were Robert and Susanna Gillard. I have no further information on this child. I have searched without result for a burial and can find nothing.

I am sure that Richard died young because the same parents had another son with the same name baptised on March 31, 1793 again at Walcot St. Swithin.<sup>9</sup> Of course, there were four girls whom we have already mentioned in the intervening years so we do not have any indication of exactly how long the first Richard may have lived. All I know is he died before his brother was baptised so he must have lived less than 5 years.

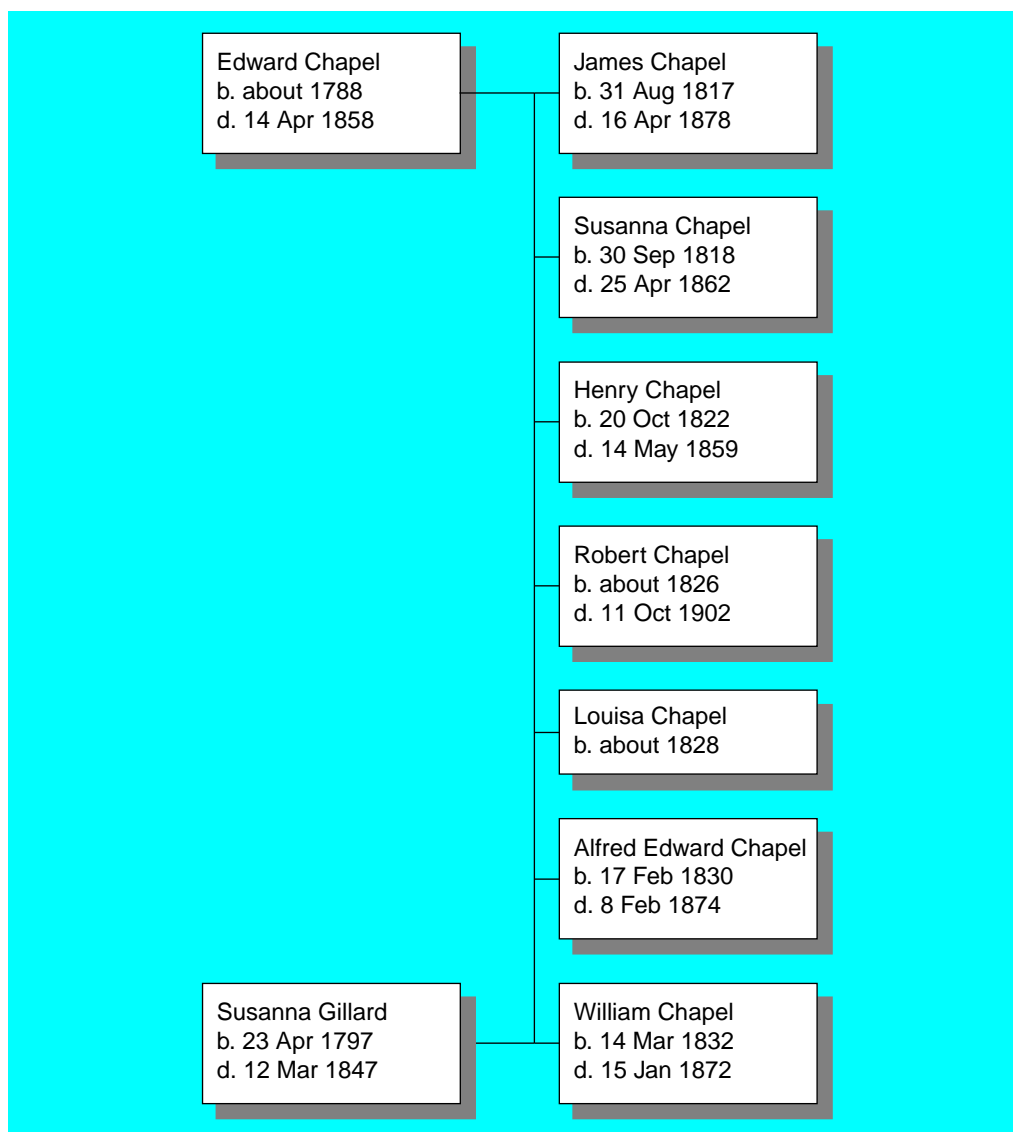
Unfortunately, the second Richard lasted less than a year. His funeral occurred on September 8, 1793 at Bath St. James.<sup>275</sup> So this Richard was probably less than 4 months old when he died.

The next Richard was baptised just over a year later on October 12, 1794 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin.<sup>10</sup> The parents again were Robert and Susanna Gillard. This poor child also had a short life. His funeral was held on May 2, 1796 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>276</sup> This Richard was a little over a year and a half when he died. After the third try, the parents gave up on the name Richard probably because it had been associated with too much heartache.

For a long time, I wondered about the name Richard. It was obviously important to the family. Their first son Robert was named after his father Robert. The second son was the first Richard. I speculated that it was the name of the father of Robert's father. Then eventually the Tiverton area research allowed me to confirm that that was indeed true. For Tiverton, see [Appendix A](#).



## 9. Susanna Gillard and Edward Chapel



*Family Tree 11. Family of Susanna Gillard and Edward Chapel*

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Susanna Gillard	1797	Bath, Somerset	1847	Bath, Somerset
Edward Chapel	about 1788	Bath, Somerset	1858	Bath, Somerset

Robert and Susanna had their daughter Susanna baptised on April 23, 1797 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>4</sup> The record gives only the names of her parents Robert and Susanna Gillard and the date.

The next record I have of daughter Susanna is her marriage to Edward Chaplle (sic) at Bath St. James on November 23, 1815.<sup>277</sup> I should mention that the name Chapel is spelled various ways in the records and I will often use the spelling from the record when discussing a particular record. I do this in case someone wishes to look up the record. I try to use Chapel when



discussing the family in general because there seems to be no commonly accepted spelling. I use it because it is a familiar spelling to modern readers, not because it is the predominant spelling found.

This family next appears in the 1841 census of Bath Abbey parish.<sup>278</sup> Edward Chappel is listed as 45 years old (rounded down) and a journeyman cabinet maker. His wife Susanna is 40 years, Their daughter Susanna is 20 years, sons Henry and Robert are both 15 years and labourers, son Alfred is 11 years, daughter Louisa is 13 years and finally son William is 9 years. All family members were born in Somerset County.

Edward's wife Susanna passed away in 1847. Her grave dated March 12, 1847 is in the Abbey and St. James parishes combined "Graveyard for the Poor" in Bath.<sup>279</sup> I am not quite sure why a journeyman cabinet maker would be in the predicament of not being able to afford a proper funeral for his wife. It may have followed repercussions of a major stock market crash in England starting in 1845 caused by speculation over the "railway mania" of the 1840s.<sup>280</sup> If he had been well enough off to invest on credit, he would have lost everything. If not, he would have been drastically affected by the ruin of middle class investors who bought furniture from him.

In the 1851 census of Lyncombe and Widcome parish in Bath, Edward Chapel is living with his oldest daughter Susanna.<sup>281</sup> His other children have either married and moved off, otherwise left home or died. Edward is working as a Steward which probably means that he lost his business as a cabinet maker, along with all his tools. Daughter Susanna is working as a servant. Both Edward and Susanna appear to be servants in the household of a well-off widow Emma Courtney. Both have a birth place listed as Bath, Somerset.

There is a grave in the Bath Union Workhouse Burial Ground in Bath for Edward Chappell dated April 14, 1858.<sup>282</sup> He was apparently living in the workhouse at the time of his death. He may have lost his job as a steward, or become too old to work. Alternatively, since he supposedly still had daughter Susanna to support him, he possibly became ill and entered the "invalid" or "lunatic" ward of the workhouse and died there.

## 9.1. James Chapel and Mary Ann Haines

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
James Chapel	1817	Bath, Somerset	1878	Paramatta, NSW
Mary Ann Haines	1823	Sandhurst, Kent	1881	Bathurst, NSW

Susanna and Edward had a son James Chapple that they had baptised on August 31, 1817 in the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath.<sup>283</sup> Edward was listed as a carpenter and the family was



living on Cross Lane.

The next record I have for James Chapple is the record of his trial in October 1835 at the Somerset County Quarter Session in Wells for stealing a fixture.<sup>284</sup> He was convicted and sentenced to 14 years in prison. It was noted that he had been previously convicted of a felony which may account for the relatively harsh sentence even though he was only 18 at the time.

Although the court record I found did not specifically mention transportation, James was put on the ship Strathfieldsay and arrived in a prison in New South Wales, Australia on June 15, 1836.<sup>285</sup> When he arrived, a convict "indenture" was made giving more detail about the trial and a complete description of him. It says that he was single, that he could read and write and that his occupation was a "French polisher (indifferent)". French Polishing is a method of wood furniture finishing. I interpret the indenture to mean that James was learning to finish furniture that his father (a carpenter) was producing. The fixture he was charged with stealing is revealed to be of lead metal (maybe plumbing?). The date of his conviction is given as October 19, 1835. He was described as 5' 2", dark sallow complexion, dark brown hair and Chestnut eyes. He has a large nose, several moles and a "pockpit", no doubt from an earlier encounter with smallpox. James was 19 years old when the indenture was made. This age agrees almost exactly with the age for him calculated from his baptism, giving some confidence that this convict is indeed the son of Susanna and Edward.

The next record I have is a "ticket of leave" (a type of parole previously described), allowing him to live in the community and earn a living for himself.<sup>286</sup> The ticket was dated November 11, 1844 when he had completed 9 years in the prison. Since tickets are renewed every year, it is possible that he got one a year or two earlier and that I have not seen it. In any case, we can be sure he was on good behaviour to get this ticket.

Eventually, James met a girl he wanted to marry and applied for permission to do so on March 11, 1848.<sup>287</sup> The girl he wanted to marry was Mary Ann Haines, and she was not a convict, so he did not have to play "drop the hanky" with the convict girls to get a wife. Mary Ann was in fact from Kent in England. When she was baptised in the Methodist church in Sandhurst, Kent on March 30, 1823 it was noted that she had been born on January 28 of that year.<sup>288</sup>

This does not explain why a "free" settler woman would want to marry a convict who was still on ticket of leave, even though he was getting close to the end of his sentence. I think that is explained by the fact that Mary Ann's grandfather Thomas Haines was a convict who was sentenced to 14 years for having forged banknotes in 1816.<sup>289</sup> His sentence would have been done in 1830, and he had become a settler. I presume he liked Australia so much that he urged his son (also Thomas) to come from England and bring his family. That appears to be exactly what son Thomas did.

When son Thomas Haines died on February 5, 1878, he was buried in a Methodist burial



ground in Sidney, New South Wales.<sup>290</sup> The death register states that Thomas Haines was 80 years old and had been in the colony of New South Wales for 39 years. This means that Thomas came to Australia presumably with his whole family including his 17 year old daughter Mary Ann about 1839. Since there was already a convict in the family, I guess Mary Ann felt one more would make no difference. As a good Methodist woman, she would also have felt she could whip James into shape in no time.

After 30 years of marriage, I find two records showing James Chapple died on April 16, 1878 in Parramatta, New South Wales.<sup>291 292</sup> One record I have is actually a death index and does not tell us much about James. There is one exception though in that it gives the name of his father which is Edward. This name is important because it is further confirmation that James in Australia is actually the son of Susanna and Edward in Bath.

And three years later in 1881 wife Mary Ann died in Bathurst.<sup>293</sup> Bathurst is a long way from Parramatta, and I am not sure why Mary Ann was so far away from her husband's residence. It is probable that she moved to live with family after James' death. I guess it is also possible James and Mary Ann had split up before his death. I do not yet know where Mary Ann was buried, but her burial place might shed more light on the situation.

## 9.2. Susanna Chapel and Thomas Elliott

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Susanna Chapel	1818	Bath, Somerset	1862	Bath, Somerset
Thomas Elliott	1820	Kings Stanley, Gloucester	1886	Bath, Somerset

There is a baptism for daughter Susanna Chapple on September 30, 1818 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>294</sup> Her parents are Edward and Susanna living on Peter Street. Her father Edward is a carpenter.

While her parents are alive, she is listed in censuses with them.<sup>278 281</sup> In 1841, she is 20 (rounded down) living with most of the family. In 1851, her mother is dead and she is the only child living with her father. They are both employed as domestic servants. It seems that Susanna felt she had to stay with her father and support him instead of getting married.

After her father's death in 1858, she probably felt she was free to find a husband, but by then she was 40 years old which means she had a limited market of men. If she was still working as a servant to a well-off lady as she was in the 1851 census, she would at least look presentable, so that would help. She finally married in 1862. There is a record in the FreeBMD index of the marriage of Susanna and Thomas Elliott in the period January to March 1862 in Bath.<sup>295</sup> I have



not purchased a copy of the marriage record, but I would not be surprised if Susanna had lied about her age to her husband since she was older than him. Thomas was baptised May 14, 1820 at Kings Stanley, Gloucestershire according to a record on FamilySearch.<sup>296</sup> That would make him 2 years younger than Susanna.

Unfortunately, Susanna did not have long to enjoy her marriage. Very shortly after the wedding she died. There is a grave at Bath St. James cemetery for Susanna Elliott with a death (or burial) date of April 25, 1862.<sup>297</sup> Her age at death is given as 37, but a calculation from her baptism date gives her age as 43. Her husband was almost 40 when he married her. I assume that this grave is Thomas' wife, but that she told her husband she was 37 and that is what he put on the death registration. An age of 37 would make her appear to be 3 years younger than him.

Thomas was a widower when he married Susanna Chapple.<sup>295</sup> There is a record in the FreeBMD index of a marriage between Thomas Elliott and Elizabeth Bingle in the period January to March 1844 at Stroud, Gloucestershire.<sup>298</sup> Stroud is very close to Thomas' birth place of Kings Stanley, but it is about 30 miles from Bath.

In the years following the marriage, there are several children born to the couple. I have found them named in the GRO birth index and recognized them by a surname of Elliott and a mother's maiden name of Bingle. The children are Julia Ann born 1849,<sup>299</sup> John Edwards born 1852,<sup>300</sup> Sarah Elizabeth born 1852,<sup>301</sup> William Augustus born 1854,<sup>302</sup> Richard Bingle born 1857,<sup>303</sup> and Charles Frederick born 1859.<sup>304</sup> There may be some others, but these are sufficient for my purposes to clearly identify Thomas in later censuses.

Elizabeth Elliott (nee Bingle) is listed in the GRO death index as dying in the period April to June 1860 in Stroud where the children were born.<sup>305</sup> After she died, Thomas and the family apparently moved to Bath where he met Susanna Chapple.

The next census after the marriage and death of Susanna was in 1871. On that census, Thomas is listed in Lyncombe and Widcombe parish of Bath and has a large family and a new wife Esther Ann Elliott.<sup>306</sup> Thomas is listed as age 50, a joiner, and born in Kings Stanley, Gloucestershire. (Susanna Chapel's father Edward was also a carpenter, so maybe Thomas and Susanna met through her father's acquaintances in the trade.) Thomas' new wife Esther Ann is older than Thomas at 58, but apparently does not try to hide it. She was born in Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, a few miles from Stroud. The children listed are son William age 17, a carpenter born Stroud, son Richard age 14 born Bath, son Charles age 11 born Bath, and son Thomas Edward aged 3 born in Bath. The first three match exactly with the ages of William Augustus, Richard Bingle, and Charles Frederick born in Stroud to Thomas' first wife Elizabeth. The last son Thomas Edward must be the son of Thomas' new wife Esther Ann.

I have not been able to find a record of Thomas' marriage to Esther Ann, nor of the birth of their son Thomas Edward. Because of this, I do not know Esther's maiden name. I suppose



there is a possibility Thomas Edward is from a previous marriage of Esther Ann and has just adopted the name of Elliott. If so, that would explain why I can't find his birth.

Father Thomas Elliott appears with his family in the 1881 census of Lyncombe and Widcombe.<sup>307</sup> He is 60 and now a machinist instead of a carpenter, but he may be operating some kind of woodworking machine. His birth is now "Standley" in Gloucester which I suppose is a misspelled short form for Kings Stanley on his baptism. His wife is now Hester Ann (instead of Esther Ann) and 69 years old, but still born in Minchinhampton. Only one son appears, Charles F. is age 20, a machinist like his father, and born in Stroud matching his birth registration, rather than Bath listed in 1871. Of course he is Charles Frederick the son of Thomas' first wife born 1859 in Stroud. There is an unusual visitor living with them, Reginald Holland, aged 3 and born in Bath. He is probably related to the family in some way, but I am not sure how.

Thomas did not live until the next census. There is a grave for Thomas Elliott with a date of January 5, 1886 in Bath St. James cemetery.<sup>308</sup> His age is listed as 65 giving a birth date of about 1821 which is very close to his baptism date. Bath St. James is the same cemetery as his wife Susanna Chapel is buried in, but he is not in the same plot. His last wife Hester Ann will share a plot with Thomas when she dies (or was buried) on February 26 1891.<sup>309</sup>

### 9.3. Henry Chapel

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Henry Chapel	1822	Bath, Somerset	1859	Bath, Somerset

Son Henry Chapel of Susanna Gillard and Edward Chapel was baptised on October 20, 1822 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath.<sup>310</sup> The family are living at Trinity Square in Bath, and Edward is listed as a labourer. He may be putting in time while waiting for more work as a carpenter/Cabinet Maker.

Henry seems to have died in an accident. There is a grave for Henry Chapple at Bath Abbey cemetery dated May 14, 1859.<sup>311</sup> Henry is listed as age 37, and there is a note saying "drowned in the Avon and removed to the Butchers Arms". The Avon is of course the Avon River which runs through Bath. Given Henry's age, It is possible he was married and had a family, but I could find no record of such.



## 9.4. Robert Chapel and Maria Abrahams

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Robert Chapel	about 1826	Bath, Somerset	1902	Bath, Somerset
Maria Abrahams	about 1829	Edington, Wiltshire	1894	Bath, Somerset

Another son of Susanna and Edward was Robert Chappel who was baptised on February 17, 1830 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>312</sup> The family were living on Southgate Street in Bath and father Edward was listed as Cabinet Maker. The only problem is that Robert is baptised on the same day as siblings Louisa and Alfred Edward and they are obviously not the same age in censuses. Based on the 1851 census below, I have assigned a birth date of about 1826 to Robert and 1829 to Maria for family tree purposes.

As previously mentioned, Robert was living with his parents in the 1841 census. Ten years later, he is living on his own in a boarding house on the 1851 census of Walcot in Bath.<sup>313</sup> He is listed as Robert Chappel aged 25 and a labourer born in Westminster in London. At first I assumed this was a different Robert because the one I wanted was born in Bath. Then I noticed that his future wife Maria Abrahams is living in the same boarding house. Maria Abrahams is listed as age 22 and a needlewoman born in "Enden", Wiltshire. It is unclear if Robert and Maria are living together. There are also two small children with Maria, George age 6 and Emily age 1. It is unclear whether these are her own children or her siblings or other relatives.

A few months after the census, there is a marriage on July 21, 1851 in Bath Holy Trinity between Robert Chappel and Maria Abrahams.<sup>314</sup> According to the marriage, they are both living at the same boarding house they were in for the census. Robert age 26 is a bachelor and a labourer and his father is Edward Chappel, a cabinet maker. Maria age 23 is a spinster and her father is James Abrahams, a labourer. Both the bride and the groom mark their name with an X.

The family next appears in the 1861 census of Lyncombe and Widcombe under the name Chapple.<sup>315</sup> Robert is now 37 and is employed as a sawyer. A sawyer saws logs into planks, and by this time he probably does it with a steam driven saw. Robert claims to be born in London. This is the same claim as in the previous census. I am not sure why because in later censuses, he reverts to a birthplace of Bath. Perhaps he thought there was some prestige associated with birth in the big city. Maria is listed as 37 born in "Headington", Wiltshire instead of Edington. The two Abrahams children in the 1851 census are now named Chapple. The children are George aged 16 and employed as an errand boy, daughter Emily aged 8, daughter Maria aged 5, and an unnamed infant son aged 1 month (I think). All the children are born in Bath. It now appears that either Robert is the father of George and Emily, or he has accepted them as stepchildren.



And ten years later, there is another census. The family appears in the 1871 census of Walcot in Bath.<sup>316</sup> Robert is now 47 and still a timber sawyer, but now his birthplace is Bath, Somerset. Maria is now 43 and employed as a pedler (now usually spelled peddler). Her birthplace is (incorrectly) listed as Bath. The children still at home are daughter Maria age 15 employed as a servant, son Robert James aged 10, daughter Mary Ann aged 7 and daughter Eda aged 1. All the children are listed as born in Bath.

Next the family is in the 1881 census, again in Walcot in Bath.<sup>317</sup> Robert is now 57 but still a timber sawyer and still born in Bath. Maria is now 53, no longer employed, and born (correctly) in Wiltshire. The children still at home are son Robert J. aged 19 and a wood carver, daughter Mary A. aged 19 and a domestic servant, and grandson Ernest Abraham aged 10.

In the 1891 census, the family of Robert J. Chappell is listed in Walcot, Bath.<sup>318</sup> This census is different however. Son Robert J. is now the head of the family and he is married. His parents are living with him. Robert J. is age 30 and a wood carver born in Bath. His wife is Elizabeth C. aged 31 from Portsmouth in Hampshire. Their children are Lilian L. age 5, Emily M. aged 3 and Robert C. aged 1. The father is now 67, and a "Timber Divider". I suspect that is just a fancy name for a sawyer, but I guess it could mean a timber dealer. Father Robert's birth place is back to London, so I don't know what is going on. Because he was baptised several years after he was born, the baptism is not really a help to locate his birthplace. And since he waffles, I don't know which is right. I am going with Bath for my tree of the family. The mother, Maria, is now 64 and her birthplace is correct as Edington, Wiltshire.

I think Robert's wife died a few years later. There is a grave in Locksbrook Cemetery in Bath for a Maria Chappell aged 66, with a date of February 17, 1894.<sup>319</sup> The age seems to be right. The only reason I am a little hesitant is that she is not buried in the same cemetery as her husband Robert. Robert apparently outlived her and his grave seems to be in Bath St. James cemetery dated October 11, 1902.<sup>320</sup> His age at death is given as 81. This age is a few years older than the census ages, but is very reasonable considering that people tend to exaggerate the age of someone that old. Again, the main problem is that he is not buried with his wife. However, he is in a plot very close to his son Robert James who died in 1936.<sup>321</sup> The proximity makes me pretty sure this is the right grave for father Robert, but I do wonder why Maria is not here too.

## 9.5. Louisa Chapel

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Louisa Chapel	about 1828	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

There is a baptism of Louisa Chappell on February 17, 1830 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>322</sup> The father Edward was listed as a Cabinet Maker and they were living on Southgate street. But



Louisa is baptised on the same day as siblings Robert and Alfred Edward. As I said previously, they are obviously not the same age. I will assign a birth date of about 1828 to Louisa.

As previously stated, Louisa aged 13 appears with the family in the 1841 census of Bath Abbey parish.<sup>278</sup> She does not appear in the 1851 census when she would have been 23. I have searched for records of her after 1841, including marriage and death indexes, burial and grave records, and also later censuses, but have been unable to identify her.

## 9.6. Alfred Edward Chapel and Emily Pearce

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Alfred Edward Chapel	1830	Bath, Somerset	1874	Bath, Somerset
Emily Pearce	about 1833	Bath, Somerset	1896	Bath, Somerset

Alfred Edward Chappel was baptised on February 17, 1830 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>323</sup> The family were living on Southgate Street in Bath and father Edward was a Cabinet Maker. On the same day his siblings Louisa and Robert were baptised and again, they are not the same age. Based on the 1841 census, it appears that Alfred was actually born near the baptism date, and the other two were not.

I have been unable to find Alfred in the 1851 census. He is not with his father and sister. The next record I can find for him is in the Bath BMD marriage index. The marriage was registered in the Bath district in 1855, and the bride was Emily Pearce.<sup>324</sup> No further details are available in the index.

He does appear with his wife and family in the 1861 census of Lyncombe and Widcombe parish in Bath.<sup>325</sup> On the census, Alfred age 31 is a labourer. His wife Emily is 28 and hence born about 1833. Son Joseph is 4, daughter Emily M. is 1, and son Alfred E. is 4 months. The whole family are born in Bath. Next door to the Chappel family is the family of William Pearce age 51 and wife Margaret Pearce age 53. The proximity suggests that they may be Emily's parents, but I have not investigated the possibility.

The connection of the Alfred Chappel family in the 1861 census to the son Alfred Edward of Susanna and Edward baptised in 1830 was difficult to prove at first, and I wondered if it was correct. The age was right, and the name agreed, but that was it. But then I found the baptism of the son Alfred E. who was 4 months old in the census. There is a baptism for Alfred Edward Chapel on April 28, 1861 in Lyncombe St. Mark parish.<sup>326</sup> The baptism confirms Alfred and Emily as the parents. On the same day, Alfred and Emily also had their older daughter Emily Maria baptised.<sup>327</sup> There was one other baptism that day. Robert and Maria Chapel had their son



Robert James baptised as well.<sup>328</sup> This family is that of Alfred's brother Robert and is described in [Section 9.4](#). This combined baptism of children of the two brothers is clear evidence that Alfred is the son of Susanna and Edward. In addition, the full name Alfred Edward of the son baptised is the same name as that of the putative father.

In the 1871 census of the same parish, Alfred and Emily Chapple and children appear again.<sup>329</sup> Alfred is now 41 and Emily 32. Alfred is working as a mason's labourer. The children are daughter Emily age 11, son Alfred age 10, daughter Susan age 2 and son Edwin age 5 months. All the family are listed as born in Bath. I think there is a discrepancy over son Edwin. I cannot find him in the Bath birth index born about 1870-1, but I do find Edwin William Chapple born 1866 where the mother's maiden name listed is Emily's maiden name of Pearce.<sup>330</sup> That would have to mean that the Edwin in the census was 5 years old as opposed to the 5 months listed, probably an error by the enumerator.

There is a grave for Alfred Chappell dated February 8, 1874 in St. James cemetery in Bath.<sup>331</sup> His age at death is listed as 44 which exactly matches the baptism listed for the son of Susanna and Edward, so I am confident the grave belongs to that son.

Alfred's wife Emily Chappell appears in the 1881 census of Lyncombe and Widcombe parish in Bath.<sup>332</sup> Emily is listed as a charwoman aged 46. Her children are daughter Emily age 18 with no occupation, son Alfred age 16 a general labourer, son Edward age 14, daughter Susan age 11 and son William age 8. All members of the family have a birthplace of Bath. The ages are a little off (mostly a year or two too young) from the previous. Also there is an Edward aged 14 who seems to correspond to the Edwin (with a corrected age of 5 years) in the 1871 census. But all things considered, I am convinced this is the same family.

Emily Chappell appears in the 1891 census with a couple of her children still home.<sup>333</sup> The family are still living in the same parish in Bath and all are born in Bath. Emily aged 58 seems to have retired to be supported by her children. Daughter Emily aged 32 is now a charwoman like her mother previously. Edwin (instead of Edward in 1881) is aged 23 and a fr[e]ight porter. William aged 19 is a carter. I notice the whole family are living in two rooms which is an indication that they are struggling to make ends meet.

I have found a grave dated November 15, 1896 for Emily Chappell in Bath St. James cemetery, the same place her husband Alfred is buried, but not the same plot.<sup>334</sup> Emily's age is listed as 53 which is too young. In the previous census, she was listed as 58 which seems consistent with other ages for her. That would make her 63 in 1896. It is unfortunate that the age is apparently 10 years wrong because it calls into question whether this is the right person. I assume whoever is buried there must be in the 1891 census for the Bath area. I checked the census and there are only two that match, the Emily above mentioned and another Emily Eliza Chappell aged 55 in the same parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe in Bath.<sup>335</sup> Although she is about 3 years younger than the first Emily, making her 3 years closer to the Emily in the grave, it turns



out Emily Eliza is not the person buried in 1896 because Emily Eliza is in the cemetery in a grave dated 1902, along with her husband John in an adjoining plot.<sup>336</sup> Since I have found no other Emilies that may be buried in the 1896 grave, I conclude that the grave contains Emily Chappell nee Pearce, the wife of Alfred Edward Chapell.

### The stray Alfred Chappell

I have to digress for a minute to discuss another Alfred Chappell who was also in the Bath area at the time. I call him a stray because he does not belong in the family I am documenting. I need to include him because every public family tree on Ancestry shows the stray Alfred as the husband of Emily Pearce. This on the face of it is unlikely because, as we shall see, the stray Alfred is about 8 years younger than Emily's husband. That would mean he was 17-18 when he married Emily who would be 5 years older than him. Nevertheless, I will go through the steps to prove he is an entirely different person.

The stray Alfred is the son of William Chapple and Catherine Bascum married on December 26, 1825 in Walcot St. Swithin's in Bath.<sup>337</sup> They had him baptised on June 24, 1838 in the same church.<sup>338</sup> Stray Alfred did not appear in the 1861 census with his mother Catherine who was by then a widow.<sup>339</sup> The census was of the parish of Walcot in Bath, the same parish where Catherine and William were married and Alfred was born. I should note that Catherine had a son John listed in the census who was 18 years old and working as a poulterer or dealer in poultry. Stray Alfred is also in this census in the same parish but 3 pages away from his mother and family.<sup>340</sup> He is 21 years old which agrees with his baptism in 1838, and he is listed as a poulterer, the same occupation as his brother John. He is also listed as unmarried, so he is obviously not the husband of Emily Pearce married in 1855.

A few years later stray Alfred died. He is listed in a grave in the Walcot cemetery at Locksbrook dated 1865.<sup>341</sup> His age at death is given as 27 which agrees with the 1838 baptism for the son of William and Catherine listed above.

To my mind, this evidence proves that our Alfred Edward, and not the stray Alfred, is the husband of Emily Pearce.

## 9.7. William Chapel and Jane Vallis

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
William Chapel	1832	Bath, Somerset	1872	Bath, Somerset
Jane Vallis	1835	Bath, Somerset	1871	Bath, Somerset

Susanna and Edward had a son William Chappel baptised on March 14, 1832 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>342</sup> The family were living on Marchants Passage and the father Edward was



working as a cabinet maker.

The next record I have for William Chapple is his marriage on October 10, 1859 to Jane Vallis in Bath Holy Trinity church.<sup>343</sup> William, aged 26, is a bachelor and a labourer. His father is Edward Chapple, cabinet maker. Jane, aged 25, is a spinster. Her father is Thomas Vallis, labourer. Both the bride and groom are living on Avon Street in Bath.

Jane Vallis was baptised at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath on March 1, 1835.<sup>344</sup> Her parents were Thomas and Jane living at number 10 Milk Street. Her father Thomas was a labourer.

The first census after the marriage was in 1861. On that census, William and Jane appear in the parish of Walcot Trinity in Bath, the same parish as their wedding.<sup>345</sup> William is listed as age 28 and a labourer. Jane is 26. They have two children, William aged 4 and Edward aged 2 months. All family members are born in Bath. The only problem here is the 4 year old William. His birth pretty clearly predates the marriage. Not only that, I can find no record of his birth in the civil birth indexes or in the church baptisms in the Bath area. There is however, a William Vallis listed in the Bath birth indexes with no maiden surname given for the mother. I think this is standard for an illegitimate birth where no father is listed, since the mother's maiden surname is the same as the child's. The birth record is for William Vallis born in the Lansdown district of Bath in 1857.<sup>346</sup> It shows that William was in fact Jane's son and may or may not be William senior's although he obviously assumed legal responsibility for him.

In the next census in 1871, the family appears in Bath St. James parish.<sup>347</sup> William Chapple, aged 39 is listed as a sawyer as we have seen his brother Robert was. William's wife Jane is aged 35. The children are son William aged 14, son Edward aged 9, daughter Clara aged 7 and son James aged 2. The whole family list Bath as their birthplace.

Wife Jane apparently died later in the year of the census. Her grave at St. James cemetery in Bath is dated as October 12, 1871.<sup>348</sup> Her age is given as 36 which agrees with her baptism.

Three months later, William Chappell also died. His grave is also in St. James cemetery and dated January 15, 1872.<sup>349</sup> His age at death is not listed, but the grave was in the same cemetery within a couple of plots of Jane's grave. But to be sure, I looked up the GRO death index for this William. It turns out there are three William Chappells that died in 1872, but only one of them died in the first three months of 1872.<sup>350</sup> This William is listed as being aged 39 at his death. This is exactly the age listed for William in the 1871 census. Since everything matches up so well, I am sure these two graves in St. James contain the William and Jane of this family.



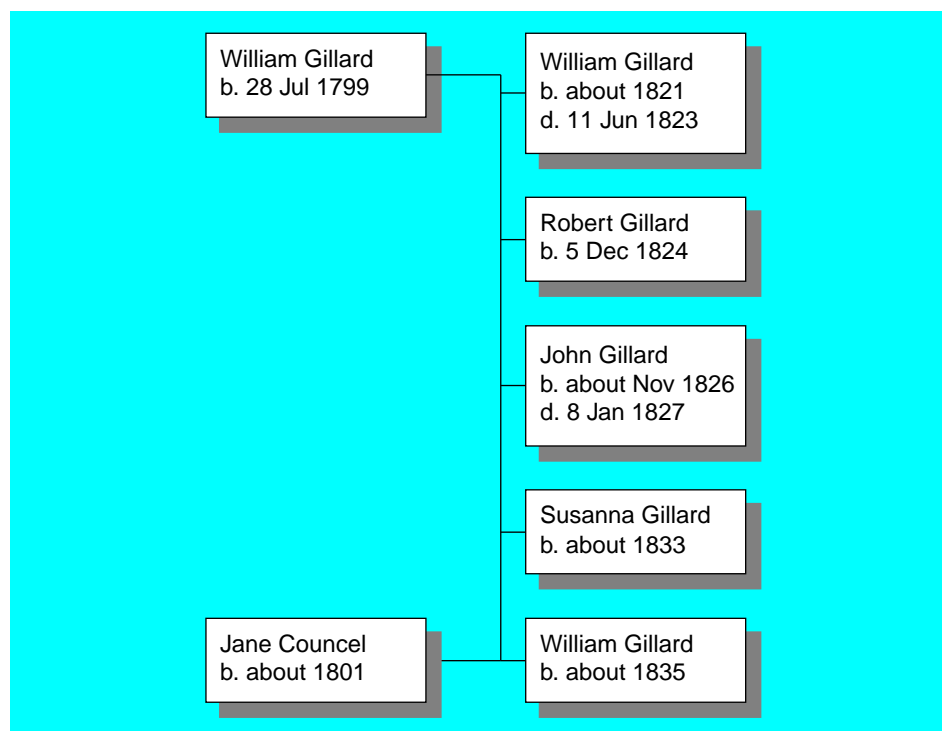
## 10. Samuel Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Samuel Gillard	1798	Bath, Somerset	1798	Bath, Somerset

Robert Gillard and Susanna Quick had more heartache with their next son Samuel. They had him baptised in the church of Bath St. James on July 15, 1798.<sup>5</sup> Then almost exactly one month later on August 14, 1798 in the same church where he was baptised, they attended his funeral.<sup>351</sup>



## 11. William Gillard and Jane Council



Family Tree 12. Family of William Gillard and Jane Council

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
William Gillard	1799	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown
Jane Council	about 1801	Somerset	unknown	unknown

Robert and Susanna's son William Gillard was baptised on July 28, 1799 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>6</sup>

There is an apprenticeship record that probably belongs to this William dated July 4, 1814.<sup>352</sup> The apprentice is named as "William Gillard son of Robert Gillard of Bristol Cordwainer". His master was to be Samuel Varlow perukemaker. A peruke (also called a periwig) is a type of wig for men.

The problem with this is that William's father did not live in Bristol, nor was he a cordwainer. He was, in fact, a pawnbroker.<sup>18</sup> However, William's older brother Robert was a cordwainer and he lived in Bristol at the time (see [Section 2](#)). It is most likely that brother Robert the cordwainer arranged the apprenticeship and the clerk wrote down "father" because in almost all cases it was the father who made the arrangements. The apprenticeship certainly seems to be for this William. I have found no record of him completing the apprenticeship, possibly because Samuel Varlow died or went out of business in the economic recession after the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815.



I have found a marriage record that seems to fit William. On July 20, 1820 in the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath, William Gillard married Jane Council.<sup>353</sup> Neither the bride nor the groom had been previously married and both were "of this parish". Unfortunately, no further information was given to confirm it is the right William.

In the census of 1841, William Gillard appears in the Bath parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe.<sup>354</sup> William is 40 years old and a shoemaker. His wife Jane is also 40, and they have a daughter Susanna aged 8 and a son William aged 6. William's trade is that of his older brother who originally arranged for him to apprentice to be a wig maker. Since this census provides the only age I have for Jane, I will use it to estimate her birth as 1801 even though it may have been rounded from a little higher by the enumerator.

I have been unable to find any member of this family in any censuses following 1841, in death records, or in marriage records. I have been unable to find any subsequent births to William and Jane. The family could have been completely wiped out by cholera or another disease, or they could have emigrated elsewhere. I have no more information.

## 11.1. William Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
William Gillard	about 1821	Somerset	1823	Bath, Somerset
William Gillard	about 1835	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

I do not have a baptism for the first son named William Gillard, but I assume it happened because I have a funeral record for him on June 11, 1823 at Walcot St. Swithin parish in Bath.<sup>355</sup> He died at age 1 and a half years. His family was living at number 48 Avon Street when he died, so I have nothing to definitely tie him to William and Jane. However he was born only a little over a year after they were married. As the first born son, he was named William after his father which was a common enough practice at the time. These inferences make me think there is a reasonable chance that this William belongs to William and Jane. If it was them, losing a firstborn must have been heartbreaking.

The next record of William I have is the family census of 1841.<sup>354</sup> On the census, he is listed as 6 years old and born in Somerset County, and thus was born about 1835.

As I said for the family as a whole, I have been unable to find William in later censuses, marriage records, or death records.



## 11.2. Robert Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Robert Gillard	1824	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

Robert Gillard, son of William and Jane was baptised on December 05, 1824 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath.<sup>356</sup> The family at the time were living at number 5 Snow Hill and William was employed as a shoemaker.

Robert does not appear with the family in the 1841 census.<sup>354</sup> At the time of the census, he would have been about 16, so it is unlikely he would have left home unless he went somewhere to work or to apprentice. I could not find a Robert in the Bath area of the right age. It seems most likely that Robert died in childhood.

## 11.3. John Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
John Gillard	about 1826	Somerset	1827	Bath, Somerset

I do not have a baptism for John Gillard, but I do have his funeral at the age of 2 months on January 08, 1827 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin.<sup>357</sup> Although his parents are not named, I know they are William and Jane because the residence of the family was given as number 5 Snow Hill. That is the same address given on the baptism of his older brother Robert in 1824 and mentioned previously.

## 11.4. Susanna Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Susanna	about 1833	Somerset	unknown	unknown

The first record I have of Susanna Gillard is the family census in 1841 previously mentioned.<sup>354</sup> On this census, she is listed as 8 years old, and the "Where Born" box indicates she was born in Somerset County, probably in Bath I think. I have assumed she was born about 1833. Susanna is most likely named after William's mother Susanna.

As previously stated, I have been unable to find any members of this family in later censuses, marriage records, or death records. I include Susanna in that statement.



## 12. Louisa Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Louisa Gillard	1796	Bath, Somerset	1799	Bath, Somerset
Louisa Gillard	1801	Bath, Somerset	1821	Bath, Somerset

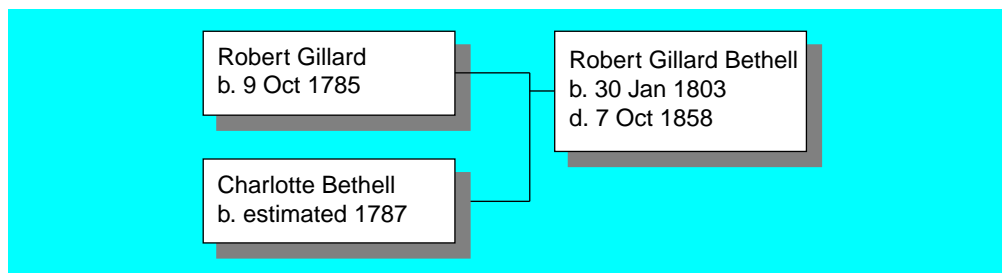
The first daughter of Robert and Susanna to be called Louisa was baptised February 28, 1796 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath.<sup>11</sup> Louisa was barely 3 years old when a funeral was held for her at Bath St. James on March 17, 1799.<sup>358</sup>

The next (and last) daughter named Louisa was baptised January 9, 1801 at Bath St. James, the church where her sister and namesake had her funeral.<sup>7</sup>

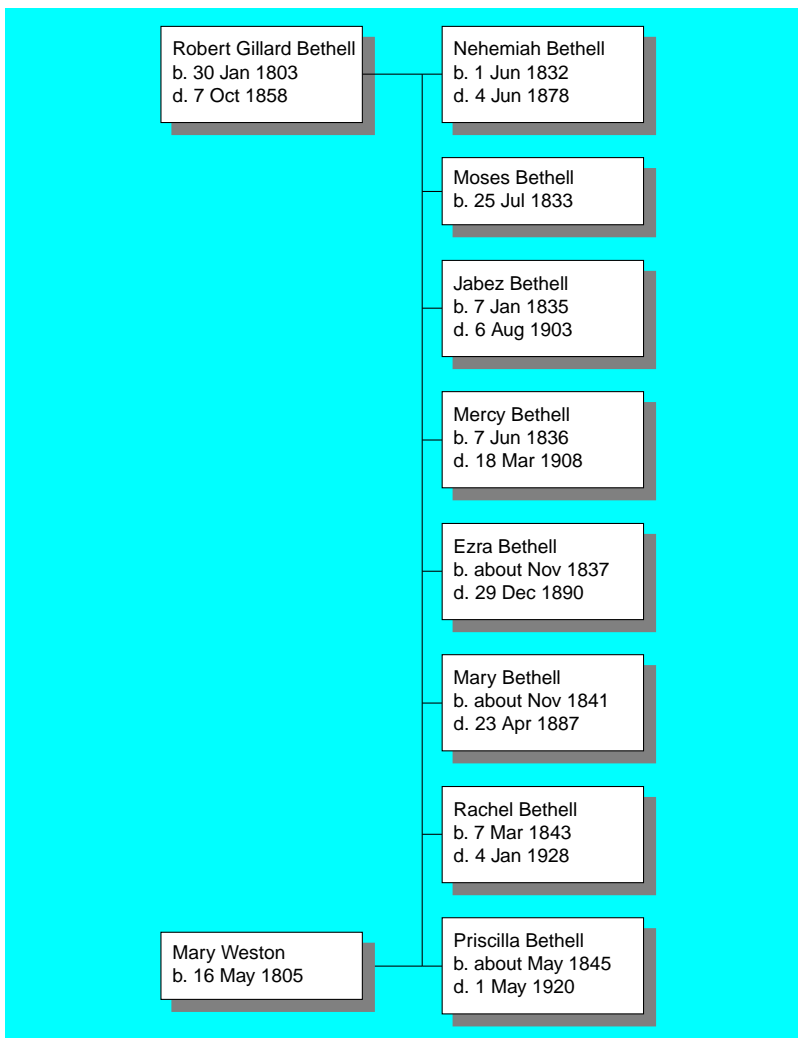
The second Louisa died in 1821 and was buried on December 2, 1821 at Bathwick St. Mary parish.<sup>16</sup> Her age is given on the burial record as 21 which agrees with her baptism record. At the time of death, she was living in Widcombe. She is buried at the same church where her father Robert was buried earlier in the same year.<sup>15</sup>



## 13. The Stroke of Luck



*Family Tree 13. Family of Robert Gillard and Charlotte Bethell*



*Family Tree 14. Family of Robert Gillard Bethell and Mary Weston*

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Robert Gillard	estimated 1785	probably Bath, Somerset	unknown	probably Bath, Somerset
Charlotte Bethell	estimated 1787	Bath, Somerset	unknown	unknown

Well I finally came to what I thought was the end of my extensive research on the Gillard family.



I included more or less detailed information on about a dozen children of Robert and Susanna and about 50 grandchildren or more depending on how you count them. After all that, I had not turned up a candidate for the man who is the object of this research. That is for the father of Ben Johnson, and the grandfather of my cousin Olive Zeggil. Nor had I found the elusive link between Gillard-Quick and Weston-Wookey, the two major lines in the DNA matches of Ben's descendants. Nor did I find any evidence of any member of this Gillard family of Bath immigrating to Canada, although there were several who went to the United States and more who went to Australia.

But as I was reviewing the first draft of the work, I stumbled on the website of the Bath Records Office ([www.batharchives.co.uk](http://www.batharchives.co.uk)) and found their "Bath Ancestors" online database. I searched for "Gillard" and noticed the results contained a few records for Robert Gillard. I was particularly struck by two entries titled "Bastardy" for Robert Gillard in the Parish Papers of Bath St. James dated 1803 and 1809.<sup>359 360</sup> I ordered images of those and a few other papers right away.

The document I received for the 1803 entry was a single ledger page with the heading "Robt. Gillard for Bethell's Child". The page had a single line with "1803 Feby 28th" in the date column, the word "Settled" in the item column and "at 1s pr wk" in the amount column. I interpret this to mean that Robert Gillard had agreed to pay one shilling per week to a mother surnamed Bethell for support of an illegitimate child. According to the UK National Archives, 1 shilling in 1803 is equivalent to £2.20 today. That is not much money to support a child on for a week.

The 1809 document contained two pages from a ledger with more accounting entries on it. The first page had "Dr" for debit in the upper right corner followed by the title "Robt Gillard Peter St". I assume this page shows payments to the parish from Robert Gillard residing on Peter Street. The page has a list of such payments, but now calculated at 2s per week. The payments cover the period from September 1808 up to March 9, 1811. However, based on the ledger totals, the last entry seems to be a refund to Robert even though it does not have a minus sign or parentheses as it would have in a modern journal. Then there follows an interesting statement:

"Cannot be Recover'd as the Father offered to take the Child Apprentice but the mother refused to let it go, and the Overseers Continued to pay till the above sum was expended - in the Parish's wrong"

The second ledger page from the 1809 document had a title line "for Bethell's child" followed on the right side "P Contra Cr". I assume this page shows payments by the parish to the child's mother. The latest payment it shows however is on April 27, 1810 for 15 weeks support. I assume that Robert demanded a refund after the mother had refused his offer of apprenticeship, and the parish refunded all the unexpended funds in his account.



I assume that the two documents (from 1803 and 1809) refer to the same Robert Gillard, and also to the same child. Even the increased payment of 2 shillings per week is not much to support a child so the mother probably had support from her family. Being an unwed mother she certainly couldn't expect to get a high paying job on her own.

According to my research as shown in [Section A.3](#), Daniel Gillard had no son Robert or for that matter any children old enough to be involved. The only men that came to mind that might be the subject of this bastardy record were Robert Gillard senior (husband of Susanna Quick) who was about 42 at the time and his son Robert junior who would have been about 18. The address of "Peter St" on the document confirms this because Robert Senior was known to be operating a pawnshop on Peter Street in 1809.<sup>18</sup> Robert junior was known to be living in Bath at least until the birth of his first son William who was baptised in 1810 at Bath St. James parish church.<sup>33</sup> It is not implausible that Robert junior and his wife were also living on Peter Street, possibly with his parents.

One item that I noticed that sways my opinion is the increase in payments from 1 shilling per week to 2 sometime between 1803 when the payment was first "settled" and 1808 when the second ledger page starts. The first payment seems to suggest that the father could not afford anything higher as would be the case with Robert junior who was an apprentice at the time with very low wages. Then when he completed his apprenticeship in 1806 as previously described and got married in the same year, he could certainly afford higher child support. He probably either offered, or was forced, to increase the rate to 2 shillings. This argument convinces me that Robert Gillard junior (who later married Deborah Gibson and is the subject of [Section 2](#)) was the father of the illegitimate child rather than Robert senior.

I proceeded with my research and I found a record of a baptism January 30, 1803 at Bath St. James parish church.<sup>361</sup> It concerns Robert Gillard Bethell, the son of Robert and Charlotte Bethell. There is no mention of "base born" or other indicators of illegitimacy. Nevertheless, it is the same church and date as the bastardy document. The middle name of "Gillard" is very suggestive in an age when middle names were not often used. I suspect it was a private baptism and that a sympathetic clergyman wrote the register entry, deliberately hiding the fact that the father's name was Gillard and not Bethell. He may have done so at the urging of a senior member of the Bethell family.

I have not yet been able to find any definite information on Robert's mother Charlotte Bethell. There is a Charlotte who appears to be too young, having been baptized on December 25, 1791 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin.<sup>362</sup> That baptism would make her about 10 and a half years old in April 1802 when the baby was conceived. This could only make sense to me if she were several years old when she was baptised, which is unlikely. The other possibility is a Charlotte baptised at South Stoke near Bath on April 30, 1769.<sup>363</sup> I think this woman is a little too old being about 33 when the child was conceived. It is possible that this woman was what is now called a "Cougar" (since the putative father Robert was only 18 at the time), or even that she



was a prostitute, but in either case, she could hardly make a claim to the parish for child support. Since she was able to apply for child support in the parish of St. James she must have been legally a member of that parish, so for purposes of my family tree, I will estimate she was born about 1787 in Bath St. James.

Since I have been unable to identify Charlotte Bethell, I cannot trace her further in other records.

### 13.1. Robert Gillard Bethell and Mary Weston

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Robert Gillard Bethell	1803	Bath, Somerset	1858	Newcastle, Ontario
Mary Weston	1805	Chewton Mendip, Somerset	about 1862-1891	Ontario

I have already discussed the birth of Robert Gillard Bethell on January 30, 1803 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>361</sup>

I found a marriage in 1830 that looks like the same child grown up. The groom is Robert Bethell (with no middle name), the bride Mary Weston, and the marriage is on August 15, 1830 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath.<sup>364</sup> The marriage hit me like a ton of bricks because ***I had seen it before***. Mary Weston (born May 15, 1805) was the daughter of Richard Weston and Ann Wookey.<sup>365</sup> I had looked into this family before because of the large number of DNA matches to its Weston-Wookey family. I had seen the marriage at that time, but been unable to recognize that it united the the two major lines in the DNA of Ben's father. And of course, the reason I could never recognize it is because Robert was an illegitimate Gillard with a surname of Bethell.

I had done a fair amount of research on the family previously because it was one of the few descendant lines of Richard Weston and Ann Wookey that emigrated to Canada, so it seemed a likely line to research. Despite that fair amount of research, I did not suspect that Robert was of Gillard descent. Researching the family in Canada did not seem reasonable because the family was fairly well documented in Canada with no Gillard marriages.

By the way, I use the name "Robert Gillard Bethell" because it was on his baptism and makes my story easier to follow, but I have never found any record of Robert himself or his descendants using the middle name. In fact, it is even possible that the minister added Gillard to the record without the mother's knowledge, just for the information of fellow clergy. I think perhaps the circumstances of Robert's birth were a "skeleton in the closet" for his family. To this day, I have not found a family tree listing Robert's parents. I also use the name "Bethell"



because it is spelled that way on most documents in England. On the other hand, in Canada the name is usually spelled "Bethel". So take your pick.

The family appears on the 1841 census of Dunkerton in Somerset about 5 miles southwest of Bath.<sup>366</sup> Robert is 35 years old (rounded down) and working as a Yeoman. Mary is also 35. They have the following children: Nehemiah age 9, Moses age 8, Jabzes[sic] age 7, Mercy age 5, and Ezra age 3. Besides that, there are two servants: James Ames age 50 who is a farm labourer and Judith Batten age 14 who is apparently a house servant. This appearance of Robert as a Yeoman farmer with servants is quite unexpected, considering his history. The only explanation I can think of is that Robert was adopted by someone relatively well off, probably a Bethell relative, possibly even Charlotte's father. Perhaps that relative is the one who persuaded the parish priest to go easy on the baptism listing. Robert's success must also, at least in some part, be due to his own hard work and ambition, possibly heightened by his knowledge of his unconventional beginnings.

The family next appears in the 1851 census of Bathampton, a couple of miles northeast of Bath.<sup>367</sup> Robert is now a 47 year old farmer and his wife Mary is 45. They also have a longer list of children: Nehemiah age 18, Moses age 17, Jabus age 15, Mercy age 14, Extra[sic] age 13, Mary age 10, Rachel age 7 and Priscilla age 5. They have one house servant Martha Veater age 17. They also have a lodger who seems to be the 70 year old mother-in-law, Ann Weston nee Wookey who died in 1855 at the age of 75.<sup>368</sup> Ann's age in the census is a very close match to her age in the death registration record. The farm where they are living in 1851 is described as 155 acres and employs 2 labourers, plus all the children except the 2 youngest. It must be considerably larger and more productive than the farm in the previous census.

Even though the family is doing very well in England, they decide to emigrate to Canada. Robert is probably drawn by the stories of very cheap land that he can own outright instead of renting as he must do in England. So, the family uproots and goes to Canada.

There is a passenger list for the ship Alleganean which arrived in New York City on May 18, 1854 carrying a Bethel family from England.<sup>369</sup> The name of the head of the family is given as "Eubert Bethel" and his age is given as 31, but it is clear from the family members listed, that it is the family of Robert Bethell from Bath. The family members are Mary age 49, Mercy age 18, Ezra age 16, Mary age 13, Rachel age 11 and Precilla age 9. Comparing to the 1851 census taken 3 years previously, we find the wife and all children either 3 years or 4 years older than the census listing. Also, Robert is 47 in the census, so his age should be 51 on the passenger list which instead says 31, a common mistake due to the similarity of handwritten "3" and "5". So, despite the mistakes for Robert, this passenger list obviously records the family's emigration in 1854.

The family must have proceeded directly to the Canadian village of Newcastle in Durham county because the following month, Robert purchased a town lot in Newcastle on June 29,



1854 for £150.<sup>370</sup> In the agreement, he is described as a butcher living in Newcastle. He pays in cash and I can find no record of a mortgage on the land. There is no description of the "premises" on the fifth of an acre of land, but the price seems high enough that it probably includes at least a house, and possibly a shop. He is probably buying this property to live in himself. The trade of butcher is surprising because there is no mention of it in England.

The next record I have for Robert Bethell is a mortgage dated November 6, 1854 where Robert loans £125 secured by a mortgage to John Fee, a carpenter in Bowmanville which is about ten miles from Newcastle.<sup>371</sup> This is quite surprising to me because I expected Robert to use what money he brought with him to buy a large farm in Canada. Instead he seems to be investing in real estate. I guess it makes sense because Robert at age 55 is really too old for the backbreaking work of carving a new farm out of the Canadian wilderness. But there were lots of opportunities for people with money to make more in real estate. In the following years, there were other land transactions that I will omit since they don't add much other than to confirm that Robert was making money through investment in real estate.

The next record is a "memoir" of Robert's will dated October 27, 1858.<sup>372</sup> It is not an exact copy, but preserves the basic intent of the will (particularly the land records) in the registry office. It is not clear if the date is that of the will or that of the copy, but I will assume it is the date of the will or that the copy was made immediately after the will. The following is a brief summary of the bequests:

1. To his wife Mary Bethel during her lifetime, the residence in Newcastle purchased on arrival; also £400 cash.
2. To his son Moses "should he prove to be living during Mary's lifetime", then £300 cash from the sale of her residence after her death and the remainder to be divided among his "3 surviving children". If not living, all proceeds from sale are to be divided as specified.
3. To his cousin Francis Bethel still in Bath £100 cash.
4. To his son Ezra Bethel two acres in the village of Darlington; plus £150.
5. The remainder of his estate is to be divided among his 6 other children, namely Nehemiah, Jabez, Mercy, Mary, Rachel and Priscilla Bethell
6. Rachel and Priscilla are to remain with their mother until they attain the age of 21 years.
7. The executors are to be his wife Mary Bethell, his son Nehemiah Bethell and Robert Fairbairn, a merchant in Newcastle.

This will tells us some interesting things about the family. First, it seems that son Moses is off somewhere possibly dangerous and may or may not return safely. I will discuss this a little more in [Section 13.3](#) below.

The mention of a cousin Francis Bethel seems to be a possible help to identifying Robert's



mother who I have no information about at present. However the term "cousin" at the time was not necessarily equivalent to "first cousin", but could be more generic covering other relationships. So it remains to be seen what help it will be.

The will must have been made on Robert's deathbed. There is a Find a Grave listing for "Robt Bethell" in Saint George's Anglican Church Cemetery in Newcastle.<sup>373</sup> The marker gives the date of death as "Oct. 7, 1858" which must be wrong if the date on the will is to be believed. The cause of the discrepancy is immediately obvious looking at the image posted with the listing. The marker is so eroded that it is almost unreadable. If they correctly recorded the "7", then the date must be October 27 because that is the date of the will. The listing also records an age of 55 which is also unclear in the image, but possibly not quite as bad as the date of death. That age exactly agrees with the previously mentioned baptism of Robert Gillard Bethell in 1803 in Bath.<sup>361</sup>

The family appears in the next census of Ontario in Newcastle in 1861.<sup>374</sup> In that census, Mary Bethel aged 53 is listed as a widow. One of her daughters, Mary aged 19 is with her. Neither has an occupation listed, but that is to be expected since Robert left them well provided for in his will. Both mother and daughter are listed as Wesleyan Methodists.

The next record I have is a land purchase by Mary Bethel, the widow of Robert Bethel, dated February 21, 1861.<sup>375</sup> The land is a fifth of an acre in the village of Newcastle, and the purchase price is \$50 which I think was about £12 at the time. At this price, this land obviously does not contain a residence or shop, but it may have had a shed. Mary may have bought it in order to plant a garden, or to store some property.

Next I found a marriage record uniting Mary Bethel and William Allen dated October 18, 1862 probably in Newcastle.<sup>376</sup> I am sure it is Robert's widow because her parents are listed as Richard and Ann Western which is a simple mistake for her real parents, whose surname was Weston. William's age is given as 59 and Mary's as 50. Mary is understating her age by about 7 years compared to her baptism record.<sup>365</sup>

I have not been able to identify Mary or her new husband William on the censuses in 1871 or 1881. There is a William Allin on the 1891 census of Newcastle who is listed as a widower aged 88 years.<sup>377</sup> He is apparently living with a Daniel Allin aged 57 who may be a relation. Shortly after, there is a death record for William aged 90 dated January 3, 1893.<sup>378</sup> The informant on the death registration is D. Allin of Newcastle who is no doubt the Daniel he was living with in the 1891 census.

Since I have not found Mary or her husband William Allen on the 1871 or 1881 censuses of Ontario, and William was a widow in 1891, Mary must have died sometime between 1862 when she was married and 1891. I have not been able to find where and when she died, although I assume it was somewhere in Ontario during that period.



After I found the marriage of Robert Bethel and Mary Weston in Bath listed above,<sup>364</sup> I looked for children for the couple. I found quite a list of them which seems to agree with the list mentioned in the will. I will now go through these children.

## 13.2. Nehemiah Bethell and Mary Leonard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Nehemiah Bethell	1832	Carlingcott, Somerset	1878	St. Catherines, Ontario
Mary Leonard	1818	Carmarthen, Wales	1884	Thorold, Ontario

There is a baptism of Nehemiah Bethell on July 6, 1832 in Camerton, Somerset and it lists his birth date as June 1, 1832.<sup>379</sup> The family at the time were living at Carlingcott in that parish. Carlingcott is about 6 miles southwest of Bath. His father was Robert Bethell and his mother Mary West[on] (daughter of Richard and Ann), confirming we have the right family. The baptism is recorded in "non-conformist" registers which probably means the family were Methodists, not Anglicans. The Methodist baptism explains why there is information about Mary's parents which was never given in Anglican baptisms.

Nehemiah next appears with his parents in the previously mentioned census of 1841 in Dunkerton and the 1851 census of Bathampton.<sup>366 367</sup> Since Carlingcott is just over a mile from Dunkerton, the family probably have not moved since Nehemiah was baptised in 1841, but by 1851 they had definitely moved about 8 miles northeast to Bathampton. Nehemiah is 9 years old in the 1841 census and 18 in 1851.

There is a marriage of Nehemiah Bethell to Mary Leonard on February 23, 1851 at Clifton St Andrew, a suburb of Bristol.<sup>380</sup> The marriage was in an Anglican church, so the bride was Anglican even if Nehemiah was possibly Methodist. The marriage lists Nehemiah's father as Robert Bethell who is a farmer and Mary's father as Thomas Leonard, a gardener.

There is a problem with the next census in 1851 that I will explain. The marriage took place on February 23 and the census took place on 30 March, 1851 according to the header line on the census page. That means that Nehemiah and Mary should have been married in the census, yet Nehemiah appears with his parents, apparently single. The name "Nehemiah Bethell" is so unique that it strains credibility to think the marriage and census are different people. So, for some reason, Mary was not living with Nehemiah at the time of the census. I have looked around in Bathampton where Nehemiah and his parents are living, and found a candidate for Mary. There is a Mary Lennard born in Carmarthen (or Cardigan) Wales but working as a cook in the household of George Carrot, a gardener. I assume Mary is continuing to work at her job



and has not yet told her employer she is married for fear of losing her job. The only problem is Mary is 33 while Nehemiah is only 18, but this is consistent with later ages for Nehemiah's wife as we shall see.

I guess that Nehemiah was missing his parents who emigrated to Canada in 1854 as previously mentioned.<sup>369</sup> He decided to follow suit the next year, arriving in New York City on May 8, 1855.<sup>381</sup> I presume he went immediately to Canada, although I have no record of him in Canada until he witnessed his father's will on October 27, 1858.<sup>372</sup> On the will, he was described as living in the town of Newcastle where his father lived.

I have not been able to find Nehemiah and his family in the 1861 census of Ontario. However, he appears in the 1871 census in Thorold in the Niagara region.<sup>382</sup> On the census, Nehemiah is 38 years old and listed as a farmer. His daughter Mercy is listed as age 19. His wife Mary's age looks like it has been erased or possibly stroked out or corrected. Ancestry transcribes it as 35 which it may have been originally, but it could be 50 now. Based on her putative age in 1851, her age in 1871 would be 53, so maybe that is the correction. The family are listed as Anglican, so I guess Mary converted them to Anglicans from the Methodism of Nehemiah's family. The whole family is also listed as born in England. Nehemiah has a labourer Henry Carter working on his farm, along with Nehemiah's brother "Ezry" (that is Ezra Bethell).

Nehemiah died before the next census on June 4, 1878 apparently in Louth a suburb of St. Catharines about 7 miles from Thorold.<sup>383</sup> Nehemiah's age is 46 which agrees closely with his baptism record. The death is registered by Benjamin Cook, husband of Nehemiah's sister Priscilla (see [Section 13.9](#) below). Nehemiah's birthplace is given as Bath England.

Nehemiah's widow Mary appears on the 1881 census of Thorold.<sup>384</sup> She is living with the family of her daughter Mercy who had married Leslie McMann on November 19, 1878 at Thorold.<sup>385</sup> On the Census, Mary is shown as 60 years old and born in Wales. That age is about 3 years younger than her putative age in the 1851 census.

There is a death registration for Mary a few years later on January 11, 1884.<sup>386</sup> She is 73 years old, about 6 years older than her putative age in the 1851 census. She is named as the widow of N Bethel, and her birthplace as Wales. There is a lot of confusion about Mary's age, perhaps because she is apparently so much older than her husband. I will use her age on the 1851 census to calculate a birth date of "about 1818" for my working tree. Since she probably gave that age to her employer before she met Nehemiah it is most likely to be close to the truth.

One important thing to note about Nehemiah concerning my search for Ben Johnson's father is that as far as I know, Nehemiah had no sons and Nehemiah died several years before Ben was born. Because of the Y-DNA tests I have done, I know that Ben was descended from Robert Bethell in a direct male line. Therefore Ben cannot be descended from Nehemiah.



### 13.3. Moses Bethell

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Moses Bethell	1833	Carlingcott, Somerset	unknown	unknown

Moses Bethell was born on July 25, 1833 in Carlingcott and baptised on August 13, 1833 in Camerton.<sup>387</sup> These are the same places where his older brother Nehemiah was born and baptized. Also like his brother his baptism was recorded in a "non-conformist" register which gave his mother's parent's names as Richard and Ann Weston.

Moses appears in both the 1841 and 1851 censuses with his parents and family.<sup>366 367</sup> He is listed as 8 years old in 1841 and 17 years old in 1851 which are both close to correct.

After the 1851 census, I lose track of Moses. I have found passenger lists for everyone else in the family emigrating to Canada via New York City in the period 1854-1855 as was already discussed for the parents and his brother Nehemiah and as will be discussed for the others in following paragraphs. The only other tangible information I have about Moses comes from the will of his father Robert Bethel in 1858.<sup>372</sup> I repeat the information about Moses listed above:

- To his son Moses "should he prove to be living during Mary's lifetime", then £300 cash from sale of her residence after her death and the remainder to be divided among his "3 surviving children".

It sounds like Moses left home for some adventure and has not been in contact since. I don't think it was just going somewhere else in England or Scotland because he would still show up in censuses unless he died before the next census in 1861. One simple explanation would be joining the army but I can't find him on the Find my Past regimental lists (I don't think those are exhaustive though). Anyway, I am thinking he may have gone somewhere in Britain's large colonial empire which was very important at this time.

I don't really have enough information to speculate further. I will say I have searched for Moses in census records and the death index and have found nothing. I have searched for him in the Canada and United States censuses and found nothing. I have searched for him in the Ontario death records and found nothing. He may have gone somewhere other than North America and died there.

The phrase "3 surviving children" in the bequest for Moses is also problematic. It is not clear if it refers to the children of Moses, or if it should be "7 surviving children" to refer to Robert's children. The fact that the document is a registry office copy rather than an original only contributes to the uncertainty. I have found no record of a marriage for Moses or for births of



any children in England or Canada, but it is possible I suppose.

With respect to my search for Ben Johnson, I think it highly unlikely that Ben is descended from Moses. Ben could be in theory, but since I have no proof Moses even came to Canada, I have no hint that he actually is a descendant of Moses.

## 13.4. Jabez Bethell and Christine Tackle

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Jabez Bethell	1835	Carlingcott, Somerset	1903	Grantham, Ontario
Christine Tackle	about 1851	England	unknown	unknown

Jabez Bethell was born on January 7, 1835 in Carlingcott and baptised on February 13, 1835 in Camerton.<sup>388</sup> These are the same places where his older brothers were born and baptized. Also like his brothers his baptism was recorded in a "non-conformist" register which gave his mother's parent's names as Richard and Ann Weston.

Jabez also appeared with his parents and family in the census of 1841 shown as age 7 years old.<sup>366</sup> And in the 1851 census he was 15 years old.<sup>367</sup> His census ages agree fairly closely with his baptism.

Jabez was first in his family to arrive at New York City on his way to Canada.<sup>389</sup> His boat came in on April 10, 1854 a little over a month before his parents and most of the family arrived on May 18, 1854.<sup>369</sup> Jabez is shown on the passenger list as a 19 year old labourer from England bound for the United States.

I have not found Jabez in the 1861 census of Canada. He may have been with his brother Nehemiah because I have not found him either even though I am pretty sure they are in Canada but somehow avoided being counted.

About 15 years after arriving in Canada, Jabez finally gets married. I have found two records of the marriage both dated March 23, 1869.<sup>390 391</sup> The first provides less information, but spells his name correctly as Jabez Bethel. The second has more information, but for some reason spells the name as John G Bethell. Both name the bride as Christina Tackel (or Tackle), but the second gives her parent's names as John Tackle and Harriet Sawley. Similarly, the second gives Jabez' parents as Robert Bethell and Mary Weston. The second gives the names of the witnesses as Eliza Bethell and Ezra Bethell. Eliza is probably the daughter Mercy Elizabeth of Jabez' brother Nehemiah, and Ezra is another of Jabez' brothers. The residences of Eliza and Ezra both are given as Port Dalhousie, Ontario. Port Dalhousie is part of St. Catherines, Ontario.



Jabez and his new wife Christina appear in the 1871 census of Port Dalhousie.<sup>392</sup> Jabez is age 35, and a farmer. Christina is age 20 and caring for a young daughter Maud Adlina who is 9 months old. All family members were Anglican and the parents were born in England while the child was born in Ontario.

In the next census of 1881, Jabez and Christina appear with more children but still in Port Dalhousie.<sup>393</sup> Jabez is now age 45 and still a farmer. Christina age 29 is now caring for a large family: Maud age 10, Elena age 8, Edith age 7 and Louisa age 4. The family are still all Anglicans, and all the children are born in Ontario while the parents are born in England.

Jabez and Christina appear with their family in the 1891 census of Port Dalhousie, but Ancestry splits them into two separate non-consecutive pages.<sup>394 395</sup> The parents and older daughter Maud are on the first page. Jabez is a 55 year old farmer. His wife, listed as Christiana, is 40 and daughter Maud is 20. On the second page, the children listed are Lena age 18 and Louie (daughter) age 14. There are also two farm labourers, Theodore Rennie age 20 and Henry Thorpe age 23. The family are still Church of England. All the children were born in Ontario, but their parents were both born in England.

In the 1901 census of Canada, Jabez and Christina appear with one daughter, "Louise G" left at home.<sup>396</sup> The family have moved to Grantham about 3 miles from Port Dalhousie. Jabez is 66 and since this census lists date of birth, he has stated his as "Jan 7 1835" which exactly agrees with the date listed on his baptism. He seems to have given up farming and is now listed as a gardener. Christina's age is a little hard to read, but is probably 50 because her birth date is given as "Jan 29 1851". This census also has a column "Year of Immigration to Canada" and Jabez gives 1853 for it. This is one year earlier than the passenger list showing Jabez arriving in New York mentioned before. The immigration date for Christina is 1860 which I must accept having no information to the contrary. Of course, both parents are listed as born in England. Daughter Louise is shown as born in Ontario on June 25 1876.

There is a death registration for Jabez dated August 6, 1903 in Grantham, Ontario.<sup>397</sup> Grantham is another suburb of St. Catharines. Jabez is listed as a married farmer born in England and of the Anglican faith. He died of "Apoplexy", what we would now call a stroke.

As far as my search for Ben's father goes, Jabez is a possible candidate, but all of his known children are girls and therefore not candidates. I would rate the possibility of Jabez being the father low simply for lack of opportunity. At the time of Ben's conception (probably about April 1882), he was married and was living in Port Dalhousie. That is over 100 miles from Ben's reputed birthplace of Zephyr, Ontario. While it is possible that Jabez met Ben's mother, perhaps when they were both travelling in Toronto, it is unlikely they had any relationship longer than a few days. As I said, I think the possibility of Jabez being the father is very low.

## 13.5. Mercy Bethell and Francis Nicholson



Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Mercy Bethell	1836	Carlingcott, Somerset	1908	Toronto, Ontario
Francis Nicholson	1833	Haddington, Scotland	1893	Toronto, Ontario

Robert Bethell of Carlingcott in the parish of Camerton and his wife Ann Weston had a daughter Mercy baptised according to the rites of the Methodist church in 1836.<sup>398</sup> Mercy was born on June 7, 1836 and baptised on July 8. (These dates are incorrectly transcribed on Ancestry). This baptism is consistent with those of all the other children so far. She is 5 years old in the 1841 and 14 in the 1851 census living with her parents and family.<sup>366 367</sup>

Mercy emigrated with the rest of the family arriving in New York in 1854.<sup>369</sup> She was 18 years old on the passenger list.

On December 12, 1860, Mercy married Francis Nicholson, an emigrant from Scotland.<sup>399</sup> I say Mercy, but the name on the record is difficult to read and usually transcribed as Mary. It is clearly Mercy though when looking at subsequent censuses for the couple as discussed below. Both the bride and groom were living in Newcastle, Ontario. Mercy's parents are listed as Robert and Mary Bethel. Francis' parents are Francis and Jane Nicholson. One of the witnesses is Mary Bethel, presumably Mercy's younger sister, although possibly Mercy's mother. The name of the other witness is hard to read, but I think it is R. Fairbairn, the executor of the will of Mercy's father mentioned previously.

The newly married couple show up on the 1861 census in the village of Newcastle where they were married.<sup>400</sup> Mercy is 24 years old, born in England, and an Anglican. Francis is 28 years old, born in Scotland, belongs to the Free (Presbyterian) Church, and is employed as a Wharfinger. According to Wikipedia:<sup>401</sup>

Wharfinger (pronounced *wor-fin-jer*) is an archaic term for a person who is the keeper or owner of a wharf. The wharfinger takes custody of and is responsible for goods delivered to the wharf, typically has an office on the wharf or dock, and is responsible for day-to-day activities including slipways, keeping tide tables and resolving disputes.

The term is rarely used; today a wharfinger is usually called a "harbourmaster".

Newcastle is about a mile and a half from Lake Ontario, but there is a good harbour there. I assume that Francis worked for some level of government administering the operation of the harbour.

In the 1871 census of Newcastle, Francis and Mercy appear with a growing family.<sup>402</sup> Francis is



now 37 years old and employed (probably at the same job) but now as a Harbour Master. He is still born in Scotland, but now listed as a Canadian Presbyterian. Mercy is 33 years old, born in England and still Anglican. The children listed are: Francis aged 9, Fredrick aged 8 and Tom B. aged 5. The children are all listed as Anglican. It is a little surprising to see the couple professing different faiths, but not surprising at all to see the children going to their mother's church. I guess it was Francis' method of getting away from the family for a little while on Sunday.

Francis and Mercy are still living in Newcastle for the 1881 census.<sup>403</sup> Francis aged 47 is still a Harbour Master. Mercy is now 40. Mercy has finally convinced her husband to become an Anglican. The children are Francis Holden aged 19 working as a clerk, Frederick Robert aged 18 also working as a clerk, Thomas Bethel aged 14 and George Israel aged 8 and of course they are all Anglican. I should note that Frederick was also enumerated with his uncle Ezra Bethell in Barrie in this same census.<sup>404</sup>

The family was enumerated in the 1891 census, but the enumerator wrote the name as McHolson, though it is clearly this family.<sup>405</sup> I assume that when the enumerator was copying rough notes to a finished census form, the initial "Ni" became instead an "M". The family had moved to Toronto, Ontario and Francis was now 58 years old, born in Scotland and a clerk in a grocery store. His wife listed as Marcy[sic] was 50 years old and born in England. The family were finally converted to Francis' original Presbyterian church, probably because that church was more friendly to them when they moved to Toronto. They have two sons living with them, Frederick aged 28 and a "retail grocer", and George age 19 a "watch case engraver". It appears that son Frederick had gone to Toronto some time ago and started his own grocery business. Now that Francis has moved to Toronto he is working for his own son as a clerk.

Francis died on Christmas 1893 in Toronto.<sup>406</sup> The cause of death was Chronic "Bright's disease" which had apparently affected him for 10 years. Bright's covered a range of kidney conditions now known as nephritis. Earlier he may have had to quit his job in Newcastle and come to Toronto for medical treatment. His occupation was given as bookkeeper so perhaps he was doing books for his son's business as long as he was able. The death registration confirmed his birthplace as Scotland. It also recorded his religion as Anglican, so maybe Mercy convinced him to convert back. Francis was buried at St. James Cemetery, the large Anglican cemetery in Toronto.<sup>407</sup>

I have been unable to find Mercy in the 1901 census. I have found her death registration dated March 18, 1908.<sup>408</sup> She was living on Bathurst Street in Toronto. She is described as a widow born in Bath, England. She died of "Bright's disease" just like her husband did 15 years earlier, although she apparently did not have the chronic form of the disease since it only affected her for 4 weeks before she died. Mercy was buried in St. James cemetery in the same plot as her husband Francis and they share a headstone.<sup>409</sup>



Ben's father cannot come from Mercy's line (or the line of any other daughters of Robert and Mary) because the Y-DNA I have been following cannot be passed from Robert to Mercy or to any of her sisters. The Y-DNA of Mercy's sons comes only from her husband and not from her father.

## 13.6. Ezra Bethell

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Ezra Bethell	1837	Clutton, Somerset	1890	Toronto, Ontario

I have not yet found a baptism record for Ezra Bethell, but I was able to find him in the civil birth registration index provided by the English GRO.<sup>410</sup> The index only shows that Ezra was born in the period October to December 1837 and that his mother's maiden name was Weston. The birth was registered at Clutton, about 10 miles from Bath. I have not yet ordered a copy of the actual registration.

In the censuses of 1841 and 1851, Ezra is living with his parents and siblings.<sup>366 367</sup>

He also emigrated to Canada with them in 1854 and appears in the passenger list on their arrival in New York on May 18, 1854.<sup>369</sup> Ezra is listed as 16 years old and his occupation is labourer.

I have not been able to find Ezra in the 1861 census. But, he appears in the 1871 census living with his brother's family in Thorold, Ontario.<sup>411</sup> He is 30 years old, born in England and working as a labourer, probably on his brother's farm.

In the 1881 census Ezra is living in Barrie, Ontario and appears to be the head of household even though he is not listed first in the census.<sup>404</sup> Ezra is 39 years old and working as a tobacconist, probably having his own shop. Also living with him is Frederick Nicholson, age 18 and working as a store clerk, presumably in Ezra's tobacco shop. Frederick is probably the son of Ezra's sister Mercy who married Francis Nicholson as previously described. The religion for Ezra and Fred is hard to read, but I think it is an abbreviation of Church of Scotland, meaning Presbyterian. Also living with Ezra is his sister Rachel Trelaven who is a widow with two small children. Rachel's story is discussed in a separate section below. As noted before Frederick was also enumerated with his family in Newcastle in this same census.<sup>403</sup> Subsequent events make me think that he was working for Ezra and just happened to visit his parents at census time. However, I have no hard evidence either way.

The location of Barrie is interesting because it is the closest large town to Zephyr Ontario where Ben was reputed to have been born in 1883. Ben's mother Isabella could have travelled to Barrie fairly easily because she had a lot of family living in and near the village of Newmarket



which was on the train line to Barrie. It would probably have been an attractive place for a young girl to find a job.

There is a record in the land registry office of a purchase by Ezra Bethell on October 15, 1885.<sup>412</sup> Ezra paid \$1700 for two town lots on the north side of Ross Street in Barrie. The price was quite a lot of money for the time, and it indicates that there were some valuable improvements on the lots although they were not described in the purchase. Ezra may have been buying new premises for his tobacco shop, or a home for himself, or maybe both combined. I guess he couldn't afford the whole price himself, so a few days later he took out a mortgage on the property for \$275.<sup>413</sup>

Five years later Ezra decided to sell the land, so there is another entry in the land registry dated October 7, 1890.<sup>414</sup> He must have really wanted to sell because he sold the same land for \$1600 giving him a net loss of \$100. But the purchaser couldn't pay cash, so Ezra had to accept \$1200 in future payments secured by a mortgage on the property.<sup>415</sup>

Only a few months later, Ezra Bethel died on December 29, 1890 in Toronto.<sup>416</sup> He was 50 years old at the time and died of "heart Disease". The registration says that he had had the heart problems for three months. That probably explains the quick sale of his property at a loss in Barrie. He probably came to Toronto for treatment, or just to be with family if treatment was not possible. Although the death registration does not give any address, I suspect he was staying with his nephew Frederick Nicholson.

There is a record in the land registry for the mortgage Ezra gave on his property before he died. The record was dated May 5, 1891 and concerned an assignment (or transfer) of the mortgage.<sup>417</sup> The transfer was from Frederick Robert Nicholson of Toronto, grocer and executor of the will of the late Ezra Bethell to Samuel Wesley, a publisher in Barrie. The mortgage was sold for \$1040.50. The executor was Ezra's nephew (and former store clerk on the 1881 census) and the Toronto grocer mentioned in the section on Ezra's sister Mercy. The mortgage assignment was witnessed by Frank Holden Nicholson, another son of Mercy and nephew of Ezra.

The interesting thing about the mortgage assignment is that it shows that Ezra left a will when he died. I was able to find a copy of that will in the York County Surrogate Court records.<sup>418</sup> The will is pretty mundane. He divides all his estate in six parts. There are four parts for his living siblings Mercy Nicholson, Rachel Trelaven, Priscilla Cook and Jabez Bethel. There are two more parts for the children of his deceased siblings Nehemiah Bethell and Mary Garth. The fact that he does not mention his other sibling Moses Bethell must mean one of two things. Either Moses' fate is completely unknown, or he is known to be dead with no surviving children. Based on the treatment of the other siblings, it is very likely that if Moses were alive, he would get a share and if he were dead with living descendants his children would get a share. The other notable thing about Ezra's will is that he is quite well off. The total value of his estate is



calculated as about \$6300 in 1890. Depending on how you do the comparison, this would probably make him at least a millionaire in today's terms.

There is another record in the registry showing that the mortgage on the land was finally paid off on January 8, 1894, although Ezra's estate had no interest in the land after the mortgage was sold.<sup>419</sup>

With respect to the search for Ben's father, Ezra looks to me like the best bet to be the father. He was living for a considerable time in Barrie, a location accessible to Ben's mother Isabella. There was time for a fairly long relationship to develop. Being a successful businessman, he would have been attractive as a possible husband. The only slight negative is that Ezra is about 20 years older than Isabella, but that may not have a big consideration to Isabella.

## 13.7. Mary Bethell and Peter Gray and George Garth

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Mary Bethell	1841	Bath, Somerset	1887	Oshawa, Ontario
Peter Gray	about 1834	Cobourg, Ontario	1870	Oshawa, Ontario
George Garth	about 1834	Montreal, Quebec	1917	Toronto, Ontario

There is a birth listed for Mary Bethell in the GRO civil birth registrations index, but I have been unable to find a church baptism for her.<sup>420</sup> The index record gives her birth in the period October to December 1841, her mother's maiden name as Weston, and the registration office as Bath. I do not have a copy of the registration document.

Mary is too young to have appeared in the 1841 census, but she appears on the 1851 census with her parents and family.<sup>367</sup> On that census, she is 10 years old, but strangely not in school. Only her younger sisters Rachel age 7 and Priscilla age 5 are in school.

Of course, she travels with the family to Canada arriving in New York with them in 1854.<sup>369</sup> On the passenger list, she is 13 years old and listed as a labourer.

On the next census in 1861, Mary is at home with her now widowed mother.<sup>374</sup> Mary is now 19 and apparently not working outside the home.

On July 4, 1862 Mary Bethel married Peter Gray in Newcastle, Ontario.<sup>421</sup> The bride was 19 years old and born in England. Her parents were Robert and Mary Bethel. The groom was 28 and hence born about 1834. He was born in Cobourg, Ontario and his parents were John and Hellen Gray. The witnesses were John and Nehemiah Bethel from St. Catherines. Nehemiah is, of course, the bride's brother, but there is no John that I know of in the bride's immediate family. There is always the possibility that some Bethel cousins have settled elsewhere in Canada and



one of them travelled to Newcastle for the wedding. However, if that had happened, I would expect another residence to be shown. Of course, it is possible that there were Bethell cousins in St. Catherines, but so far I have not bumped into any. I think it most likely that the second witness was the bride's brother Jabez, but the name was mistakenly recorded as John.

There is a listing on Find a Grave for Peter Gray age 37 dated September 16, 1870 in the Bond Head cemetery.<sup>422</sup> Bond Head is the old name for the port area of Newcastle. It is located a mile and a half south of the village centre near the shore of Lake Ontario.

Mary Gray appears as a widow with three small children in the 1871 census of Oshawa.<sup>423</sup> Mary is 27 years old and the children are: Helen L age 7, Lillie M age 5 and Emma J aged 16 days and born in March. The whole family are listed as Canadian Presbyterians. Oshawa is about 15 miles from Newcastle and is a larger town. Peter is actually listed on a death return (on the following page of the census) as having died at age 38 in September 1870 from chronic Dysentery. Presumably he was living in Oshawa when he died. Peter's occupation is given as a millwright.

It wasn't easy for a widow with a young family in those days, so not surprisingly, Mary remarries to George William Garth on January 20, 1873 in Oshawa.<sup>424</sup> Mary is 29 years old and the record correctly lists her parents as Robert and Mary Bethell and her birthplace as England. George is 10 years older at 39 years. He is a butcher born in Canada and his parents are George and Sarah Garth.

The couple appears along with their family in the 1881 census of Oshawa.<sup>425</sup> George W is 45 years old, born in Quebec, and employed as an "Agent". Mary is 38 and born in England. The children are: Ellen age 17, Lillian age 16, Eva J age 10, William age 6 and George H age 3. Note that the daughter called Emma J in 1871 is now called Eva J. All the children are shown with the surname of Garth, although only those less than 10 belong to George Garth. The whole family are now Anglican.

Mary died in Oshawa on April 23, 1887 probably from complications of pregnancy or childbirth.<sup>426</sup> Her death was registered under the name of "Mrs. George Garth". Her age was 43 years 7 months, but she was about 2 years older according to her birth registration in England. The death registration also incorrectly gives her birthplace as Canada. The cause of death is given as "morbus uteri" which is Latin for "disease of the womb".

In the 1891 census of Oshawa, George appears as a widower, and three of the children are still with him.<sup>427</sup> George is age 52, born in Quebec, and an "agent for silverware". Daughters Louisa age 26 and Eva age 20 are now listed as stepdaughters with the surname of their father Peter Gray. Son George Garth is now 13 years old. All the family are Anglicans.

There is a death registration for George William Garth who died at age 86 on August 31, 1917 in Toronto.<sup>428</sup> He was living in the "house of industry". By 1917, this facility was probably just an old folks home. George is listed as born in Montreal. His occupation is given as a soldier



verteran. George died of "myocarditis", but I am not sure what that meant in 1917. Note that George's date of death is incorrectly transcribed by Ancestry as August 3.

As previously explained, Ben's father cannot come from Mary's line as he is descended from a son of Robert and Mary.

## 13.8. Rachel Bethell and James Treleven

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Rachel Bethell	1843	Carlingcott, Somerset	1928	Toronto, Ontario
James Treleven	about 1844	England	1875	Newcastle, Ontario

There was a baptism of Rachel Bethell the daughter of Robert and Mary in the "non-conformist" registers for 1843.<sup>429</sup> Rachel was born on March 7, 1843 in Carlingcott and baptised on April 16, 1843. In the column labelled "Abode", the entry reads "Whiteoxmead NCh Carlingcott". White Ox Mead is located about a mile and a half east of the previous residence of the family in Carlingcott. I am not sure what NCh stands for, but possibly something like non-conformist chapel. So, my interpretation is that Carlingcot is where the Bethell farm was and the baptism took place at a chapel in White Ox Mead. And of course, as before, non-conformist probably means Methodist, especially since Mary was listed as a Wesleyan Methodist on the 1861 census of Newcastle.<sup>374</sup>

Rachel's first census was in 1851 when she appeared with her parents and family.<sup>367</sup> Rachel was 7 at the time and attending school.

When the family emigrated to Canada, Rachel arrived with them in New York City in 1854.<sup>369</sup> She is listed as 11 and a labourer at the time.

I have not located Rachel in the 1861 census of Canada. Rachel probably married James Treleven sometime around 1869. I have no record of the marriage, but I infer it from the following censuses showing her and her family. That the Rachel in the censuses is actually Rachel Bethell, is confirmed by the death registration of Rachel Treleaven dated January 4, 1928.<sup>430</sup> That document clearly states her parents were Robert Bethel and Mary Weston.

Rachel and James appear in the 1871 census of Newcastle.<sup>431</sup> James is 27 years old and born in England. His occupation is joiner, an older term for a carpenter. Rachel is 25 years old and caring for a 4 month old baby girl Eva M who was born in December 1870. The family are Anglicans. Since I have no information about James' birth, I will use his age on this census to estimate a birth date of 1844.



A few years later, on April 18, 1875 at Newcastle, James died of Tuberculosis (then called Consumption).<sup>432</sup> James was 31 years old and had worked as a carpenter. He had suffered from TB for about 18 months, and there was really no cure in those days. His religion is given as Anglican. James was buried in Newcastle.<sup>433</sup>

In the 1881 census, Rachel is a widow with two children living in Barrie, Ontario.<sup>434</sup> Rachel is 34 years old. Her children are Eva age 10 and Frederick age 6. All three are Anglicans. Rachel is living with her brother Ezra Bethel age 39 and her nephew Frederick Nicholson age 18. Ezra is a tobacconist and Frederick a store clerk, probably in Ezra's tobacco shop.

Rachel appears in the 1891 census of Toronto, although the enumerator messed up the spelling of her name pretty badly.<sup>435</sup> I read the name as "Rachal Trevelle" although Ancestry messes it up even further, transcribing the first name as "Ractiae". Rachel is shown as age 43, a widow, and born in England. There is a surprise in that she has three children instead of the two she had 10 years before. The children are: Eva age 19, John age 18 and Fred age 16. John is the new one, but he fits right between the other two so he must have either been staying with a relative, or been missed altogether. The whole family are Anglican.

In the 1901 census, Rachel is listed as a mother in law and is staying with her daughter Eva, Eva's apparent husband Robert B Burkell and their children in Toronto.<sup>436</sup> According to the census, Rachel is 51 years old and was born on March 7, 1849 which is 6 years younger than her baptism record shows (although the day of the year matches). Rachel's birthplace of England is listed, but the column for year of immigration is omitted. Eva's age is 30 and her husband's is 36. And, of course, the whole family are Anglican.

Rachel is still living with the family of her daughter and son in law in the 1911 census of Toronto.<sup>437</sup> She is listed as mother in law and her birth is a lot closer to reality at March 7, 1844 and her age is 67. Eva is now 39 and her husband 46. The whole family are still Anglican.

She must have been a pretty good mother in law because Rachel is still in Toronto with Eva and her husband in the 1921 census.<sup>438</sup> Rachel is now 75 and born in England. An immigration year of 1851 is now given, but it is out by 3 years from the passenger list cited above.

As previously stated, Rachel died on January 4, 1928 in Toronto.<sup>439</sup> The informant who registered her death was her son in law, Robert B Burkell. His address was the same as hers meaning she had continued to live with them right up until her death. Rachel was taken back to Newcastle and buried with her husband James who had died 53 years earlier.<sup>439</sup>

As with Rachel's other sisters, Ben's father is not from her line.



## 13.9. Priscilla Bethell and Benjamin Cooke

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Priscilla Bethell	1845	Bath, Somerset	1920	Niagara Falls, Ontario
Benjamin Cooke	about 1823	England	1892	St. Catherines, Ontario

I have been unable to find a church baptism for Priscilla Bethell, but I found her in the GRO civil birth registrations index.<sup>440</sup> The index gives her birth in the period April to June 1845, her mother's maiden name as Weston, and the registration office as Bath. I have not ordered a copy of the registration.

In the 1851 census, Priscilla is with parents and family in Bathampton.<sup>367</sup> She is 5 years old and attending school.

Priscilla is with the family when they arrive in New York in 1854 on their way to Canada.<sup>369</sup> She is only 9 years old, but they still list her as a labourer in the passenger list.

In the 1861 census, Priscilla Bethel is living in Newcastle with the family of Robert Fairbairn.<sup>441</sup> Priscilla (Percilla in the census) is 17 years old, and is a Wesleyan Methodist (in a household full of Presbyterians). Robert is a 33 year old merchant, and his wife Ann is 22. Both were born in Upper Canada (Ontario).

As with her sister Rachel, I have found no marriage for Priscilla Bethell, but it seems she was married to Benjamin Cook(e) about 1862 based on the ages of children in the following censuses. Again, I confirmed it is the right Priscilla in the censuses with the registration of the death of Priscilla Cook on May 1, 1920.<sup>442</sup> Her parents are Robert Bethel and Mary Wesson (instead of Weston). She was said to be born on May 21, 1844, which is one year older than her birth record. So clearly she is our Priscilla.

Benjamin and Priscilla appear with a family in the 1871 census of Louth township near St. Catherines.<sup>443</sup> Now we get to learn a bit about Benjamin. He is 51 years old, born in England, and a farmer. Priscilla is only 25 years old. Their children are Frederick age 7 and going to school, Jabez age 5 and Ellen age 3. Benjamin apparently doesn't go to church, but Priscilla and the children are all Anglicans. The striking thing about this marriage is the age difference. Based on the age of her oldest son, Priscilla was 16 or 17 when she was married. At the same time, Benjamin would have been 42 or 43. I noticed that Priscilla was not living with her mother in the 1861 census.<sup>441</sup> I wonder if her mother asked Robert Fairbairn to take her in hand because she was misbehaving. (Robert was the executor of her father's will and obviously a close family friend.) If that is the case, did she finally marry Benjamin despite what the adults



said, or on the other hand did Robert marry her off to Benjamin to settle her down?

In the 1881 census, Priscilla and Benjamin are still in Louth township in the St. Catherines area.<sup>444</sup> Benjamin is now 56, born in England and a labourer. It seems he has lost his farm although they still live in the same area. Priscilla is 36 years old, and her children are Fredrick age 17, Jabez age 14, and Nellie age 13. Nellie must be a nickname for Ellen named in the previous census. Priscilla has finally convinced Benjamin to go to church with the family and they are now all Anglicans. Also, it seems all three children are going to school.

The family seem to have moved to Grantham (also near St. Catherines) in the 1891 census.<sup>445</sup> Benjamin is now 66, and a farmer, so he seems to have got a new farm. Priscilla is 46 and the younger children Jabez age 24 and Nellie age 23 are still at home.

Benjamin Cook died on May 4, 1892 in St. Catherines, Ontario of "inflammation of the brain" what we would now call encephalitis.<sup>446</sup> According to the death registration he was 68 years and 12 months old (I am not sure how that differs from 69 years). He was born in England and he was an Anglican.

In the 1901 census, Priscilla shows up in Niagara with her two unmarried children, but now her son Jabez is the head of the household.<sup>447</sup> Priscilla (spelled Percilla on the census) is 56 years old with a birth date of May 21, 1844 in England, 1 year older than her birth registration shows. The census shows a date of immigration of 1853, one year sooner than the passenger list shows. Jabez is shown as 34 years old with a birth date of November 20, 1866 in Ontario. He is working as a butcher. His sister Nellie is listed as 32 years old with a birth date of January 1, 1868 in Ontario. The whole family are Anglican.

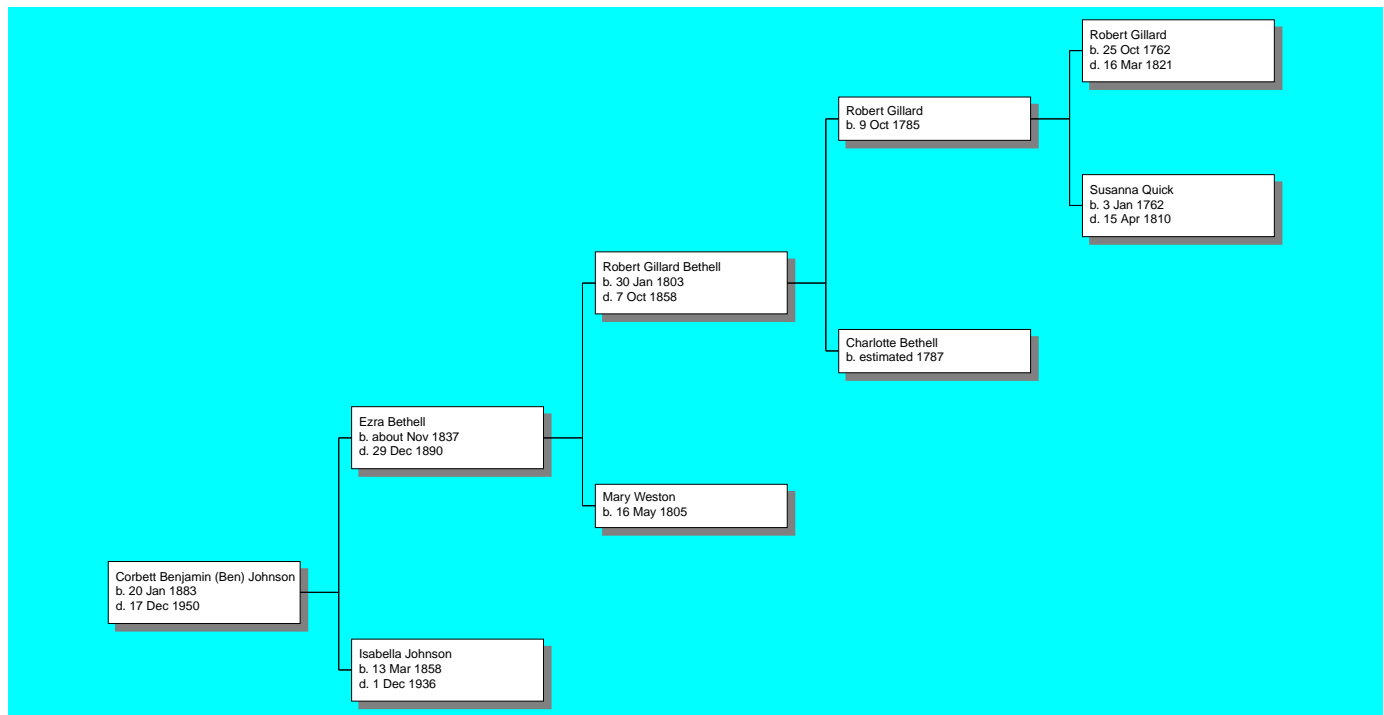
Jabez and his mother Priscilla are still together in the 1911 census.<sup>448</sup> They are in Stamford township which is very close to, if not the same place as, Niagara where they were 10 years before. Jabez is now 44, single and a farmer. His mother is now 67. Her birthplace, birthdate and date of immigration are the same as in 1901. They are both Anglicans.

As previously mentioned, Priscilla died on May 1, 1920 in Niagara Falls, Ontario.<sup>442</sup> The death registration gives the following further information. Her birth date was May 21, 1844 in England. She was living with her son Jabez when she died. And she was buried in St. Catherines, Ontario.

Ben's father is not from Priscilla's line.



## 14. Corbett Benjamin Johnson



Family Tree 15. Most Probable Ancestors of Ben Johnson

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Corbett Benjamin Johnson	1883	Zephyr, Ontario	1950	Thornton, Ontario

This section is not intended to be an exhaustive report on the records available about Ben's life, but only to describe the circumstances of his birth. The chart previously presented in [Family Tree 1](#) is repeated here for reference as [Family Tree 15](#).

The marriage of Robert Bethell and Mary Weston clearly unites the two major lines found in the atDNA research. Ben must be a descendant of this marriage, based on atDNA matches alone. But in addition to that Ben must be a direct patrilineal descendant of the Gillard family as required by the Y-DNA testing. So, any direct male descendant of this marriage would satisfy these constraints and is a candidate for Ben's father.

Robert Bethell himself could not be the father of Ben because he died in 1858 about 25 years before Ben's birth.<sup>373</sup> Robert had only four known sons but no known grandsons. It is possible that Robert or any of his sons produced an illegitimate son who would also be a candidate if he were old enough. But there is no evidence of such sons so I consider the possibility not very likely. Of Robert's known sons, Nehemiah cannot be the father because he also died several years before Ben's birth. Moses is possible, but most unlikely since he is not even known to have come to Canada. Jabez is possible, but unlikely because he was not known to be in an area



where he would have contact with Ben's mother.

The only candidate left is Robert's son Ezra Bethell. As discussed in [Section 13.6](#), Ezra wrote a will showing he was unmarried and had no children that he would admit to. Ezra was a shopkeeper in Barrie, Ontario for at least the whole decade surrounding Ben's birth. Ben's mother Isabella Johnson could have travelled fairly easily to Barrie and may even have found a job there for some period of time. All these considerations lead me to the conclusion that Ezra is the most likely candidate for Ben's father. See Ben's probable family tree already presented in [Family Tree 15](#) for a more detailed view of Ben's ancestry.

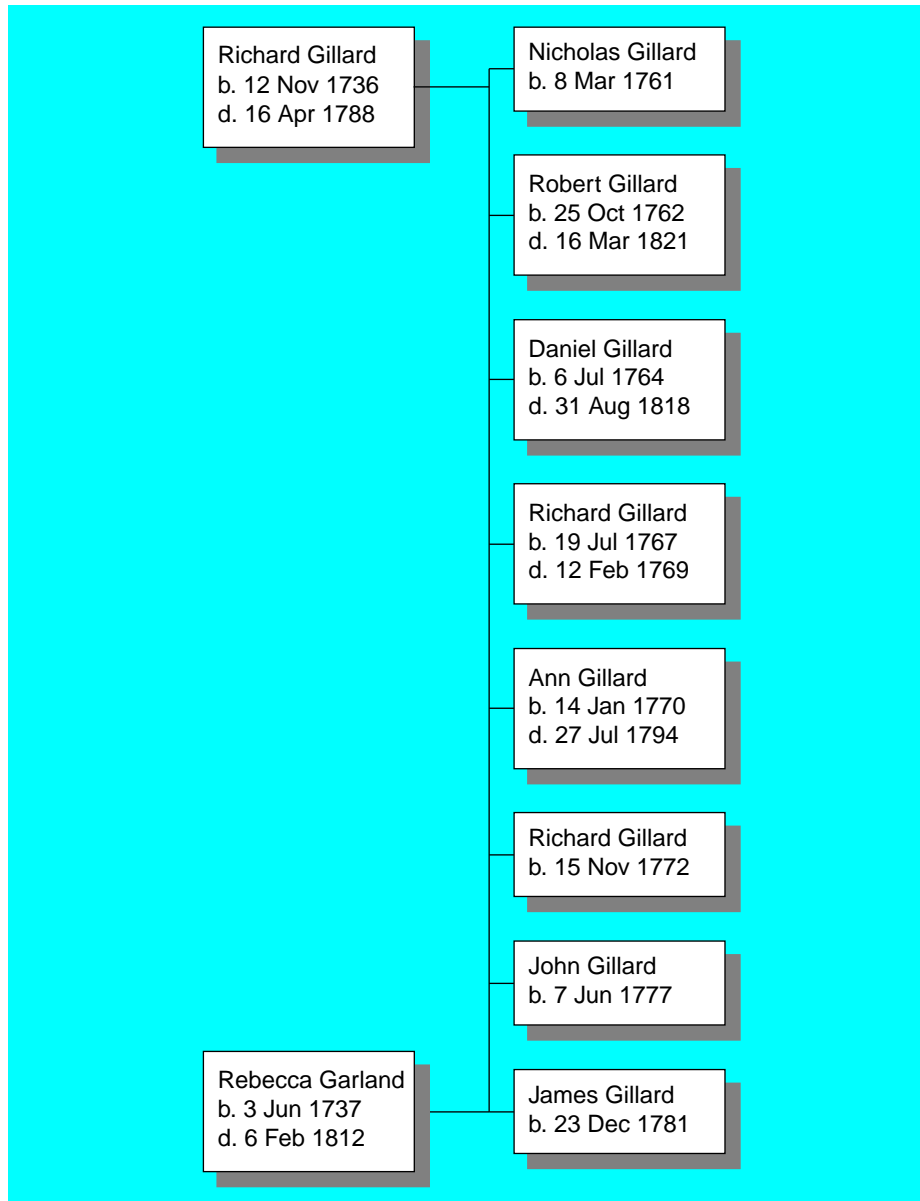
I have no information as to whether Ezra even knew about Isabella's pregnancy or Ben's birth.

There are family stories about Ben's father, but they do not seem to match the story of Ezra. All the family stories say that Ben and his brother Fred had the same father. But of course, the Y-DNA says that they had different fathers. The family stories named the father of Ben and Fred as Charles Johnson. That could have applied to the father of Fred, since nothing is known of his father. There was no mention of the name Ezra in family stories. There was no mention of Barrie as the residence of the father either. Some stories name the burial place of the father as Port Dover, or Port Colborne, or even Port Hope. Since Port Colborne is in the Niagara region, it could be a vague reference to Ezra's family in that region. In any case, I have to admit that Ezra does not match the narrative handed down by Ben's mother about Ben's father.

Nevertheless, the evidence seems to be pretty clear cut that Ezra was Ben's father, and if not Ezra, then one of his very close male relatives. But the probabilities of the situation seem to me to very strongly favour Ezra himself as the father.



## Appendix A: Tiverton Origins - Richard Gillard and Rebecca Garland



Family Tree 16. Family of Richard Gillard and Rebecca Garland

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Richard Gillard	1736	Sampford Peverell, Devon	1788	Sampford Peverell, Devon
Rebecca Garland	1737	Tiverton, Somerset	1812	Sampford Peverell, Devon

The purpose of this appendix is to discuss the parents of Robert Gillard, the patriarch of the Gillards of Bath. His parents lived over 60 miles from Bath in the Tiverton area of Devon. So the



question immediately arises: what proof is there that the parents are really connected to Robert? I hope to provide that definitively in the following paragraphs.

Richard was baptised on November 12, 1736 in the parish church of Sampford Peverell in Devon.<sup>449</sup> The parish is about 5 miles from the town of Tiverton. The baptism lists the father of Richard as Nicholas Gillard, but it doesn't list the mother as was often the practice at the time.

The next record I have concerning Richard is his marriage to Rebecca Garland at the church of St. Peter in Tiverton on May 3, 1760.<sup>450</sup> The marriage most likely took place in Tiverton because that was the Rebecca's home parish. That is all the information contained in the register.

Since the wedding took place in Tiverton, I looked in that parish for a record of Rebecca's birth. I found a baptism dated June 5, 1737 in Tiverton in the same church of St. Peter where Rebecca would later be married.<sup>451</sup> The baptism also lists a birth date of June 3, 1737. The name on the record is actually "Rebeccah" and she is a year younger than Richard, so she is a good fit. Her father was listed as John Garland, but again, her mother was not named. I should also note that I found a copy of this record in the Bishop's transcripts of the Tiverton register and it is a little different.<sup>452</sup> The copy gives the same parish and date, but the name is spelled "Rebecca Gillard". This leads us to the question, which is correct. In cases like this, the normal practice is to take the original and assume the copy is an error which I will do (except that I will drop the final "h" in Rebeccah). I did check that there are other Garlands in that parish, so the name is reasonable (in fact there are even other Rebecca Garlands in the parish with different dates).

As we will see later, the first child born to Richard and Rebecca was baptised in Tiverton, and all the rest in Sampford Peverell. This may mean that the couple lived with Rebecca's parents for a while when they were first married. But it may also mean that they lived in Sampford Peverell, but Rebecca came to her mother's home for the first birth.

There is a burial that seems to be right for Richard Gillard on April 16, 1788 at Sampford Peverell.<sup>453</sup> It is the only one I found in that parish that occurs after his oldest child was conceived. There is a comment on the record that Richard was a pauper. This seems plausible considering the other cases of pauperism found in this family, and also the cases of criminal behaviour presumably driven by poverty. However, because it is stated in the burial register, it may only mean that the family could not pay for a proper funeral, rather than that Richard was receiving continuing aid or living in a poorhouse.

I found only one burial for a Rebecca Gillard in parish registers for Sampford Peverell and it seems plausible for this Rebecca.<sup>454</sup> The burial occurred on February 6, 1812. There was no mention of her being a pauper as in the burial of Richard, supposedly her husband. At a minimum, this means the family were able to pay for the burial. They had probably been supporting her as well because she would have been 75 at the time if I have identified the proper burial. The family would have been helped by the much improved economy in England



due to high spending on the ongoing Napoleonic wars.

The children of Richard Gillard and Rebecca Garland are discussed in the following paragraphs. I have to note that I have not done a full study on this family. I also include some speculative comments that will probably provide a basis for further research. Please do not accept my speculation without further research.

## A.1. Nicholas Gillard and Sarah Fords

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Nicholas Gillard	1761	Tiverton, Devon	unknown	unknown
Sarah Fords	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown

Nicholas Gillard was baptised on March 8, 1761 at the church of Tiverton St. Peter.<sup>455</sup> The parents named were Richard and Rebecca. As mentioned before, this is the parish of Rebecca's family. Rebecca may have come here to have her mother's help with her first child.

There is a marriage for Nicholas Gillard at the church of Bath St. Michael on July 11, 1786.<sup>456</sup> The bride is named as Sarah Fords, although she signs her name as "Foords" in a somewhat shaky hand. Both the bride and groom are of the parish of St. Michael. I have no definite proof that the Nicholas married in Bath is the same person as the Nicholas baptised in Tiverton. However, Nicholas from Tiverton would be 25 at the time of the wedding which is reasonable. The church where they married is the same one where his supposed brother Daniel was married 3 years later.<sup>457</sup> The church is also less than half a mile from the church of Walcot St. Swithin in Bath where his other supposed brother Robert was married 5 years before.<sup>12</sup>

However, I have been unable to find any other record of Nicholas in Bath following the wedding, or anywhere else in England. It is possible that he died and his wife remarried. It is also possible that he moved somewhere where I have not looked for him.

## A.2. Robert Gillard and Susanna Quick

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Robert Gillard	1762	Sampford Peverell, Devon	1821	Bath, Somerset
Susanna Quick	1762	Halberton, Devon	probably 1810	Bath, Somerset

The family of Robert Gillard and Susanna Quick is, of course, the main subject of this work. The



couple themselves are discussed in [Section 1](#). In this appendix, I will only discuss the evidence for the connection of Robert Gillard to the Tiverton area and parents Richard and Rebecca.

Early on in this research, I found the marriage of Robert and Susanna in 1783 in Walcot St. Swithin parish.<sup>12</sup> This document seemed to tie together all the Gillards in Bath with parents Robert and Susanna, but I couldn't find the baptisms for Robert and Susanna in Bath or the surrounding area. When I uncovered the connection to Tiverton, I looked again and immediately found Robert and Susanna both within a few miles of Tiverton, and both with baptisms in 1762.<sup>13 14</sup> This date would make them both about 21 when they were married. This age is in reasonably close agreement with Robert's burial at age 60 in 1821.<sup>15</sup> I do not have a similar age at death for Susanna, but the exact match to Robert's birthdate is a good indicator that it is the right Susanna.

The question then comes up, why did they get married in Bath if they both came from the Tiverton area? I think the 1783 marriage gives us a clue to this. I have always assumed that Robert was a tradesman from what I know about him, particularly the fact that he always seemed to have lived in the city. I do know that he later was a pawnbroker.<sup>18</sup> I do not know if he apprenticed as a pawnbroker, or if he had some other trade and later made enough money to go into pawnbroking. Whatever trade he may have had, the standard apprenticeship did not allow marriage and ran from age 14 to 21. The Tiverton area baptism gives his age at marriage in 1783 as exactly 21 plus a couple of months.<sup>13</sup> This suggests that Robert left Tiverton when he was 14 and went to Bath to apprentice. When he finally completed his apprenticeship his future wife Susanna came to Bath to be married because Robert intended to follow his trade there.

The first big clue to Tiverton I had came from a detailed description of the first born son of Robert and Susanna also named Robert. The description was taken when Robert junior was sent to prison for possessing a mold to make counterfeit coins in 1832.<sup>38</sup> The description gave his age as 47 and his place of birth as Tiverton. At first I thought this was a mistake and ignored it. When I finally got around to looking closely at it, I found the baptism for Robert Gillard in 1785 in Tiverton.<sup>22</sup> This is an exact match to the age in the description.

The question then comes up, why was he born in Tiverton when Robert and Susanna had made their home in Bath? The answer to that I think lies in Susanna wanting to be with her mother during the birth of her first child. In an age without hospitals and doctors for ordinary births, women tended to rely on midwives, and also their mothers, particularly for the first child. We noted earlier that Robert's mother Rebecca seemed to do the same thing when her oldest child Nicholas was born.

There was another hint of the Tiverton connection when Robert and Susanna's daughter Mary Ann Gillard married William Richards in 1813.<sup>234</sup> (This couple is discussed in [Section 6](#).) The marriage bond described William Richards as being from Welland in the County of Devon. There is no Welland in Devon, but the reference is obviously to Willand, a parish about 6 miles



from Tiverton. Again at the time I wondered how a girl in Bath met a boy from so far away. I speculated there must be some family connection to Willand. And of course once I found out about Tiverton, it became clear that there probably was.

There was also a hint that Robert's father was named Richard. Robert's first son was named after himself. His second son who was born in August 1788 was named Richard.<sup>8</sup> Unfortunately, Richard died young, but two more sons were also given the name Richard and all died.<sup>9 275 10 276</sup> The parents finally gave up on the name, but it made me think that the name Richard was important to them, and was possibly the name of Robert's father. Then after I found the Tiverton connection, I saw that Robert's father Richard had died in April 1788,<sup>453</sup> just a few months before the first son Richard was born. That seemed to explain the importance of the name Richard to Robert and Susanna and to confirm that Robert in Bath was indeed Richard's son.

In my opinion, the above evidence and inference amount to clear proof that Robert Gillard of Bath is the son of Richard Gillard and Rebecca Garland of the Tiverton area. The specific written document from the prison description giving Robert's birth in Tiverton is clear proof in itself,<sup>38</sup> and it is supported by the other strong circumstantial evidence presented here.

### A.3. Daniel Gillard and Ann Lancey

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Daniel Gillard	1764	Sampford Peverell, Devon	1818	Bath, Somerset
Ann Lancey	about 1769	unknown	1817	Bath, Somerset

Since I started researching Gillard families in Bath, I have noticed the family of Daniel Gillard and Ann Lancey. The general similarities of the family made me think that Daniel must be a brother or cousin of the Robert Gillard who married Susanna Quick, but I had no proof. Then in the Tiverton area, I found a Daniel who was also a son of Richard and Rebecca, or in other words a brother of Robert.<sup>458</sup> Daniel was baptised in Sampford Peverell on July 6, 1764. As we shall see, he seems to be the Daniel who came to Bath.

Daniel Gillard and Ann Lancey were married November 12, 1791 at the church of Bath St. Michael.<sup>457</sup> The spelling of Ann's surname as entered by the clerk was originally "Laney", and then corrected to Lancey. The signature of the bride is entered in a competent hand and is clearly Lancey. The groom also clearly has good penmanship skills.

There is an interesting document from the Bath Archives containing the name of Daniel Gillard and dated 1792-1793.<sup>459</sup> Daniel's name is just one in a long list of members signing a petition.



There is a note on the website stating:

1792-1793. In the 1790s, it was feared that the French revolution would spread to England. In Bath, as in other towns, people eager to show support for the King set up a "Loyal Association". A volume lists all those who signed its petition of loyalty.

On July 4, 1803 Sarah Gillard, a daughter of Robert and Susanna was married to John Sandell at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>3</sup> One of the witnesses is Daniel Gillard. The only Daniel I have found in the area that is old enough to be a witness is the Daniel who married Ann Lancey. If it was that Daniel, it would tend to confirm that he was also Sarah's uncle, or in other words, Robert's brother. There are some similarities between the signature of Daniel the witness and Daniel's signature at his own marriage, but they are far from identical. The signature on the marriage was smooth and flowing, whereas the witnesses signature seemed competent but shakey, almost like the register was not solidly supported. All the other writing on the register seems to be by church officials and is not shaky. Because of the signature, this evidence is not definitive, but it is suggestive that Daniel in Bath is Robert's brother.

As previously mentioned, I recently found a Bath directory listing for 1809 showing Daniel Gillard as a pawnbroker living at 24 Peter street and Robert Gillard as a pawnbroker living at 22 Peter Street.<sup>460</sup> It seems that Daniel and his brother Robert were in partnership together as pawnbrokers.

I am not going to go into any detail on the children of Daniel and Ann, but here are their names and dates of baptism: Ann 1792,<sup>461</sup> Margaritta 1795,<sup>462</sup> Thomas 1796,<sup>463</sup> Daniel 1799,<sup>464</sup> Richard 1802,<sup>465</sup> Ann 1804,<sup>466</sup> William Hicks 1806,<sup>467</sup> Margaretta 1809,<sup>468</sup> and Charles 1811.<sup>469</sup> The names Ann and Margaretta appear twice because the first ones died young.

The naming of the sons is interesting. The first son is Thomas, and I don't know where it comes from, perhaps from Ann's family. The second son is named Daniel after his father. The third son is named Richard, presumably after his paternal grandfather. Except for Thomas, the naming follows the same pattern as Robert used.

The funeral of Anne Gillard, age 48, was conducted on October 23, 1817 at the church of Bath St. James.<sup>470</sup> A calculation from her age gives a birth date of 1769.

I have looked for baptisms that match Ann Lancey in Somerset, Devon and Bristol. The best I came up with is Ann Lancy baptised December 5, 1768 in Barnstaple, Devon.<sup>471</sup> This baptism is a very close match to the age at death for Ann Gillard. Not only that, her father's name is Thomas, the same as her first born son. The only problem is that Barnstaple is 90 miles from Bath and 30 miles from Tiverton. I cannot think of any reasonable explanation of how she got from Barnstaple to Bath, so I can only classify the Barnstaple baptism as a remote possibility. I am a little skeptical of her name and I think there is a possibility that it may be spelled quite



differently on the older registers, making it difficult to find her.

I have found a burial which is most likely that of Daniel on August 31, 1818 at Bath St. James.<sup>472</sup> His age is given as 57 which calculates to a birth year of 1761. This age is 3 years older than the baptism in Sampford Peverell, but well within the range of variation of such ages, especially considering that his wife (who is usually the most competent at remembering ages) died the year before him. This burial tends to support the proposition that Daniel is Robert's brother, but is not conclusive due to the age discrepancy.

It is possible that Daniel's son Daniel junior took over the family pawnbroking business after Daniel senior died because I found a later directory in 1819 showing "D Gillard" pawnbroker living at 30 Peter Street.<sup>473</sup> Brother Robert is apparently no longer in the business although he is still alive.

The evidence that Daniel Gillard from Bath is also the son of Richard and Rebecca is not as strong as with Robert. In particular, there is no direct written evidence to show this. Nevertheless, I feel the weight of circumstantial evidence is strong enough that Daniel is most likely their son.

## A.4. Ann Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Ann Gillard	1770	Sampford Peverell, Devon	1794	Sampford Peverell, Devon

Richard and Rebecca had a daughter baptised as Ann Gillard on January 14, 1770 at the parish church of Sampford Peverell.<sup>474</sup> There is no record of a marriage for her in her home parish. There is however a burial in that parish of Ann Gillard on July 27, 1794.<sup>475</sup> As was the custom at the time, no age is given, but this seems to be her. If my previous speculation is correct, the 3 oldest boys would have left home and gone to Bath by this time. That would leave Ann at 24 as the oldest child still at home. She is listed as a pauper in the burial record just as her father was in 1788.



## A.5. Richard Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
Richard Gillard	1767	Sampford Peverell, Devon	1769	Sampford Peverell, Devon
Richard Gillard	1772	Sampford Peverell, Devon	unknown	unknown

The first son of Richard and Rebecca named Richard was baptised on July 19, 1767 at Sampford Peverell.<sup>476</sup> Unfortunately, he lived less than two years. There is a funeral for him on February 12, 1769 at the same church.<sup>477</sup>

On November 15, 1772 the parents tried the name Richard again with a son baptised at the same Sampford Peverell church.<sup>478</sup>

I have tracked down several Richard Gillards, including one marriage in Bath in 1790 at the church of Walcot St. Swithin.<sup>479</sup> Unfortunately, I cannot connect any of them with Richard and Rebecca.

## A.6. John Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
John Gillard	1777	Sampford Peverell, Devon	unknown	unknown

Richard and Rebecca had a son John Gillard baptised on June 7, 1777 at the Sampford Peverell parish church.<sup>480</sup> I have no other information on John.

## A.7. James Gillard

Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place
James Gillard	1781	Sampford Peverell, Devon	unknown	unknown

A son James was baptised at Sampford Peverell parish on December 23, 1781.<sup>481</sup>

The only other record I have found for him is a record of apprenticeship duty paid for him on October 14, 1793.<sup>482</sup> John would have been about 12 and a half years at the time which is a little



young, but not unusually so. He may have been big for his age. He was apprenticed to William Darch of Sampford Peverell who was a cordwainer (or shoemaker). I do not know whether James completed his apprenticeship and became a cordwainer or not.

I have no further information on James.



## Notes

1. "Corbett Benjamin Johnson (1882-1950)", photograph, est. 1905, digital image, Privately held by Suzanne Zeggil Plowman, Port Perry, Ontario, Canada. This image is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.
2. "Robert Gillard (1734-Deceased), Mrs Susannah Gillard (1740-Deceased) | Landscape View | FamilySearch", online database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/landscape/LC1Y-1L3> : accessed 28Feb2022), "The World's Largest Shared Online Family Tree".
3. "Somerset, England, Marriage Registers, Bonds and Allegations, 1754-1914", online database, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.ca/imageviewer/collections/60858/images/42886\\_1831109331\\_1253-00346](https://www.ancestry.ca/imageviewer/collections/60858/images/42886_1831109331_1253-00346) : accessed 28Feb2022), image 346, Marriage of John Sandell and Sarah Gillard on 04Jul1803 at Bath St James, SOM, ENG; Somerset Heritage Service; Taunton, Somerset, England; Somerset Parish Records, 1538-1914; Reference Number: D\P\ba.ja/2/1/7.
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